

By: Representatives Compretta, Weathersby,  
Dedeaux

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1581

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-5-171, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MEETINGS FOR WHICH PUBLIC  
3 UTILITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MAY BE COMPENSATED; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-5-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 19-5-171. (1) Every resident citizen of the county in which  
9 is located any district created under Sections 19-5-151 through  
10 19-5-207, of good reputation, being the owner of land or the  
11 conductor of a business situated within the district and being  
12 over twenty-five (25) years of age and of sound mind and judgment,  
13 shall be eligible to hold the office of commissioner.

14 (2) Except as provided in Section 19-5-164(3), each person  
15 appointed or elected as a commissioner, before entering upon the  
16 discharge of the duties of the person's office, shall be required  
17 to execute a bond payable to the State of Mississippi in the penal  
18 sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) conditioned that the  
19 person will faithfully discharge the duties of the office. Each  
20 bond shall be approved by the clerk of the board of supervisors  
21 and filed with the clerk.

22 (3) Each commissioner shall take and subscribe to an oath of  
23 office prescribed in Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of  
24 1890, before the clerk of the board of supervisors that the person  
25 will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of  
26 commissioner, which oath shall also be filed with the clerk and  
27 preserved with the official bond.



28           (4) The commissioners so appointed or elected and qualified  
29 shall be compensated for their services for each meeting of the  
30 board of commissioners attended, either regular or special, at a  
31 rate to be fixed by the board of supervisors, not to exceed the  
32 rate established in Section 25-3-69 for officers of state boards,  
33 commissions and agencies, and shall be reimbursed for all expenses  
34 necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties in  
35 accordance with Section 25-3-41. However, in no one (1) calendar  
36 year shall any commissioner be compensated for more than  
37 thirty-six (36) meetings.

38           **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
39 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
40 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
41 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
42 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
43 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
44 extended.

45           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
46 and after October 1, 2002, if it is effectuated on or before that  
47 date under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended  
48 and extended. If it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
49 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, after October 1,  
50 2002, this act shall take effect and be in force from and after  
51 the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights  
52 Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

