By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 3103

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-65-75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
TO STOP THE DIVERSION OF FUEL TAXES FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND TO
THE STATE AID ROAD FUND BEGINNING MARCH 15, 2002; TO BEGIN THE
DIVERSION OF FUEL TAXES TO THE STATE AID ROAD FUND FROM THE
GENERAL FUND AGAIN EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2005; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
ISSUANCE OF STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$144,000,000.00 AND TO REQUIRE THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH BONDS TO BE
DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE AID ROAD FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

- 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
- 10 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-65-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 11 amended as follows:
- 27-65-75. On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the revenue collected under the provisions of this chapter during the
- preceding month shall be paid and distributed as follows:

 (1) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month
- 17 total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under

thereafter through July 15, 1993, eighteen percent (18%) of the

- 18 the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the
- 19 provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on
- 20 business activities within a municipal corporation shall be
- 21 allocated for distribution to such municipality and paid to such
- 22 municipal corporation. On or before August 15, 1993, and each
- 23 succeeding month thereafter, eighteen and one-half percent
- 24 (18-1/2%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the
- 25 preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that
- 26 collected under the provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3)
- 27 and 27-65-21, on business activities within a municipal
- 28 corporation shall be allocated for distribution to such
- 29 municipality and paid to such municipal corporation.

A municipal corporation, for the purpose of distributing the tax under this subsection, shall mean and include all incorporated cities, towns and villages.

Monies allocated for distribution and credited to a municipal corporation under this subsection may be pledged as security for any loan received by the municipal corporation for the purpose of capital improvements as authorized under Section 57-1-303, or loans as authorized under Section 57-44-7, or water systems improvements as authorized under Section 41-3-16.

In any county having a county seat which is not an incorporated municipality, the distribution provided hereunder shall be made as though the county seat was an incorporated municipality; however, the distribution to such municipality shall be paid to the county treasury wherein the municipality is located and such funds shall be used for road, bridge and street construction or maintenance therein.

On or before September 15, 1987, and each succeeding month thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter during the preceding month One Million One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$1,125,000.00) shall be allocated for distribution to municipal corporations as defined under subsection (1) of this section in the proportion that the number of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to consumers and retailers in each such municipality during the preceding fiscal year bears to the total gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to consumers and retailers in municipalities statewide during the preceding fiscal year. The State Tax Commission shall require all distributors of gasoline and diesel fuel to report to the commission monthly the total number of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by them to consumers and retailers in each municipality during the preceding month. State Tax Commission shall have the authority to promulgate such rules and regulations as is necessary to determine the number of

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- 63 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to
- 64 consumers and retailers in each municipality. In determining the
- 65 percentage allocation of funds under this subsection for the
- 66 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1987, and ending June 30, 1988, the
- 67 State Tax Commission may consider gallons of gasoline and diesel
- 68 fuel sold for a period of less than one (1) fiscal year. For the
- 69 purposes of this subsection, the term "fiscal year" means the
- 70 fiscal year beginning July 1 of a year.
- 71 (3) On or before September 15, 1987, and on or before the
- 72 fifteenth day of each succeeding month, until the date specified
- 73 in Section 65-39-35, the proceeds derived from contractors' taxes
- 74 levied under Section 27-65-21 on contracts for the construction or
- 75 reconstruction of highways designated under the Four-Lane Highway
- 76 Program created under Section 65-3-97 shall, except as otherwise
- 77 provided in Section 31-17-127, be deposited into the State
- 78 Treasury to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be used to
- 79 fund such Four-Lane Highway Program. The Mississippi Department
- 80 of Transportation shall provide to the State Tax Commission such
- 81 information as is necessary to determine the amount of proceeds to
- 82 be distributed under this subsection.
- 83 (4) On or before August 15, 1994, and on or before the
- 84 fifteenth day of each succeeding month through July 15, 1999, from
- 85 the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes as
- 86 provided in Section 27-5-101(a)(ii)1, Four Million Dollars
- 87 (\$4,000,000.00) shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the
- 88 credit of a special fund designated as the "State Aid Road Fund,"
- 89 created by Section 65-9-17. On or before August 15, 1999, and on
- 90 or before the fifteenth day of each succeeding month through
- 91 February 15, 2002, from the total amount of the proceeds of
- 92 gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes apportioned by Section
- 93 $27-5-101(a)(ii)\underline{1}$, Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) or an
- 94 amount equal to twenty-three and one-fourth percent (23.25%) of
- 95 such funds, whichever is the greater amount, shall be deposited in

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the State Treasury to the credit of the "State Aid Road Fund,"
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     created by Section 65-9-17. On or before March 15, 2005, and on
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     or before the fifteenth day of each succeeding month thereafter,
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     from the total amount of the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or
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     kerosene taxes apportioned by Section 27-5-101(a)(ii)1, Four
     Million Dollars ($4,000,000.00) or an amount equal to twenty-three
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     and one-fourth percent (23.25%) of such funds, whichever is the
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     greater amount, shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the
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     credit of the "State Aid Road Fund," created by Section 65-9-17.
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     Such funds shall be pledged to pay the principal of and interest
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     on state aid road bonds heretofore issued under Sections 19-9-51
     through 19-9-77, in lieu of and in substitution for the funds
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     heretofore allocated to counties under this section. Such funds
     may not be pledged for the payment of any state aid road bonds
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     issued after April 1, 1981; however, this prohibition against the
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     pledging of any such funds for the payment of bonds shall not
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     apply to any bonds for which intent to issue such bonds has been
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     published, for the first time, as provided by law prior to March
     29, 1981. From the amount of taxes paid into the special fund
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     pursuant to this subsection and subsection (9) of this section and
     any funds paid into the special fund pursuant to Sections 2
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     through 17 of Senate Bill No. 3103, 2002 Regular Session, there
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     shall be first deducted and paid the amount necessary to pay the
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     expenses of the Office of State Aid Road Construction, as
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     authorized by the Legislature for all other general and special
     fund agencies. Except for the funds derived from the issuance of
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     bonds pursuant to Sections 1 through 17 of Senate Bill No. 3103,
     2002 Regular Session, the remainder of the fund shall be allocated
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     monthly to the several counties in accordance with the following
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     formula:
                    One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to all counties
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               (a)
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in equal shares;

129	based on the proportion that the total number of rural road miles
130	in a county bears to the total number of rural road miles in all
131	counties of the state; and
132	(c) One-third $(1/3)$ shall be allocated to counties
133	based on the proportion that the rural population of the county
134	bears to the total rural population in all counties of the state,
135	according to the latest federal decennial census.
136	The remainder of the funds in the State Aid Road Fund after
137	deduction of the amount necessary to pay the expenses of the
138	Office of State Aid Road Construction that are derived from bonds
139	issued pursuant to Section 2 through 17 of Senate Bill No. 3103,
140	2002 Regular Session, shall be allocated to the several counties
141	in accordance with the above formula; however, the allocation of
142	such funds shall be made at such times as the State Aid Engineer
143	considers necessary but not less than annually.
144	For the purposes of this subsection, the term "gasoline,
145	diesel fuel or kerosene taxes" means such taxes as defined in
146	paragraph (f) of Section 27-5-101.
147	The amount of funds allocated to any county under this
148	subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 1994 shall not be
149	less than the amount allocated to such county for fiscal year
150	1994. Monies allocated to a county from the State Aid Road Fund
151	for fiscal year 1995 or any fiscal year thereafter that exceed the
152	amount of funds allocated to that county from the State Aid Road
153	Fund for fiscal year 1994, first must be expended by the county
154	for replacement or rehabilitation of bridges on the state aid road
155	system that have a sufficiency rating of less than twenty-five
156	(25), according to National Bridge Inspection standards before
157	such monies may be approved for expenditure by the State Aid Road
158	Engineer on other projects that qualify for the use of state aid
159	road funds.

(b) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to counties

- Any reference in the general laws of this state or the
 Mississippi Code of 1972 to Section 27-5-105 shall mean and be
 construed to refer and apply to subsection (4) of Section
 27-65-75.
- (5) One Million Six Hundred Sixty-six Thousand Six Hundred
 Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,666,666.00) each month shall be paid into
 the special fund known as the "State Public School Building Fund"
 created and existing under the provisions of Sections 37-47-1
 through 37-47-67. Such payments into said fund are to be made on
 the last day of each succeeding month hereafter.
- (6) An amount each month beginning August 15, 1983, through
 November 15, 1986, as specified in Section 6 of Chapter 542, Laws
 of 1983, shall be paid into the special fund known as the
 Correctional Facilities Construction Fund created in Section 6 of
 Chapter 542, Laws of 1983.
- On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month 175 thereafter through July 15, 2000, two and two hundred sixty-six 176 177 one-thousandths percent (2.266%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of this 178 179 chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall be deposited by the commission into the School 180 181 Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund created pursuant to Section On or before August 15, 2000, and each succeeding month 182 37-61-35. thereafter, two and two hundred sixty-six one-thousandths percent 183 184 (2.266%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that 185 collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2), shall be 186 deposited into the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund created 187 under Section 37-61-35 until such time that the total amount 188 189 deposited into the fund during a fiscal year equals Forty-two Million Dollars (\$42,000,000.00). Thereafter, the amounts 190 191 diverted under this subsection (7) during the fiscal year in excess of Forty-two Million Dollars (\$42,000,000.00) shall be 192

- 193 deposited into the Education Enhancement Fund created under
- 194 Section 37-61-33 for appropriation by the Legislature as other
- 195 education needs and shall not be subject to the percentage
- 196 appropriation requirements set forth in Section 37-61-33.
- 197 (8) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month
- 198 thereafter, nine and seventy-three one-thousandths percent
- 199 (9.073%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the
- 200 preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that
- 201 collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall be
- 202 deposited into the Education Enhancement Fund created pursuant to
- 203 Section 37-61-33.
- 204 (9) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month
- 205 thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter during
- 206 the preceding month, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
- 207 (\$250,000.00) shall be paid into the State Aid Road Fund.
- 208 (10) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month
- 209 thereafter through August 15, 1995, from the revenue collected
- 210 under this chapter during the preceding month, Two Million Dollars
- 211 (\$2,000,000.00) shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Ad
- 212 Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105.
- 213 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to
- 214 the contrary, on or before February 15, 1995, and each succeeding
- 215 month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the
- 216 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) and
- 217 the corresponding levy in Section 27-65-23 on the rental or lease
- 218 of private carriers of passengers and light carriers of property
- 219 as defined in Section 27-51-101 shall be deposited, without
- 220 diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund
- 221 established in Section 27-51-105.
- 222 (12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to
- 223 the contrary, on or before August 15, 1995, and each succeeding
- 224 month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the
- 225 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(1) on

226 retail sales of private carriers of passengers and light carriers

of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101 and the corresponding

levy in Section 27-65-23 on the rental or lease of these vehicles,

229 shall be deposited, after diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad

230 Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105.

231 (13) On or before July 15, 1994, and on or before the

232 fifteenth day of each succeeding month thereafter, that portion of

233 the avails of the tax imposed in Section 27-65-22, which is

234 derived from activities held on the Mississippi state fairgrounds

complex, shall be paid into a special fund hereby created in the

236 State Treasury and shall be expended pursuant to legislative

appropriations solely to defray the costs of repairs and

238 renovation at such Trade Mart and Coliseum.

239 (14) On or before August 15, 1998, and each succeeding month

thereafter through July 15, 2005, that portion of the avails of

the tax imposed in Section 27-65-23 which is derived from sales by

242 cotton compresses or cotton warehouses and which would otherwise

be paid into the General Fund, shall be deposited in an amount not

to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) into the special

fund created pursuant to Section 69-37-39.

246 (15) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to

247 the contrary, on or before September 15, 2000, and each succeeding

248 month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the

249 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-19(1)(f),

250 shall be deposited, without diversion, into the Telecommunications

251 Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-38-7.

252 (16) On or before August 15, 2000, and each succeeding month

thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the preceding

254 month under the provisions of this chapter on the gross proceeds

of sales of a project as defined in Section 57-30-1 shall be

256 deposited, after all diversions except the diversion provided for

257 in subsection (1) of this section, into the Sales Tax Incentive

258 Fund created in Section 57-30-3.

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- 259 (17) The remainder of the amounts collected under the 260 provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury 261 to the credit of the General Fund.
- It shall be the duty of the municipal officials of any 262 263 municipality which expands its limits, or of any community which incorporates as a municipality, to notify the commissioner of such 264 265 action thirty (30) days before the effective date. Failure to so notify the commissioner shall cause such municipality to forfeit 266 the revenue which it would have been entitled to receive during 267 this period of time when the commissioner had no knowledge of the 268 269 If any funds have been erroneously disbursed to any municipality or any overpayment of tax is recovered by the 270 taxpayer, the commissioner may make correction and adjust the 271 error or overpayment with such municipality by withholding the 272 273 necessary funds from any subsequent payment to be made to the 274 municipality.
- SECTION 2. As used in Sections 2 through 17 of this act, the following words shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
- 278 (a) "Accreted value" of any bond means, as of any date
 279 of computation, an amount equal to the sum of (i) the stated
 280 initial value of such bond, plus (ii) the interest accrued thereon
 281 from the issue date to the date of computation at the rate,
 282 compounded semiannually, that is necessary to produce the
 283 approximate yield to maturity shown for bonds of the same
 284 maturity.
 - (b) "State" means the State of Mississippi.
- 286 (c) "Commission" means the State Bond Commission.
- SECTION 3. (1) The commission, at one time, or from time to time, may declare by resolution the necessity for issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Mississippi to provide funds for the State Aid Road Fund created by Section 65-9-17.
- 291 Upon the adoption of a resolution by the State Aid Engineer,

declaring the necessity for the issuance of any part or all of the 292 general obligation bonds authorized by this section, the State Aid 293 Engineer shall deliver a certified copy of his resolution or 294 295 resolutions to the commission. Upon receipt of such resolution, 296 the commission, in its discretion, may act as the issuing agent, prescribe the form of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids, 297 issue and sell the bonds so authorized to be sold and do any and 298 all other things necessary and advisable in connection with the 299 issuance and sale of such bonds. The total amount of bonds issued 300 under Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall not exceed One 301 302 Hundred Forty-four Million Dollars (\$144,000,000.00).

303 (2) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into the 304 State Aid Road Fund shall be used to pay debt service on bonds 305 issued under Sections 2 through 17 of this act, in accordance with 306 the proceedings authorizing issuance of such bonds.

The principal of and interest on the bonds 307 SECTION 4. authorized under Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall be 308 309 payable in the manner provided in this section. Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, be in such denomination or denominations, 310 311 bear interest at such rate or rates (not to exceed the limits set forth in Section 75-17-101, Mississippi Code of 1972), be payable 312 313 at such place or places within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature absolutely at such time or times not to 314 exceed twenty-five (25) years from date of issue, be redeemable 315 316 before maturity at such time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall bear such registration privileges, and 317 318 shall be substantially in such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the commission. 319

section 5. The bonds authorized by Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall be signed by the chairman of the commission, or by his facsimile signature, and the official seal of the commission shall be affixed thereto, attested by the secretary of the commission. The interest coupons, if any, to be attached to such S. B. No. 3103

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officers. Whenever any such bonds shall have been signed by the 326 officials designated to sign the bonds who were in office at the 327 328 time of such signing but who may have ceased to be such officers 329 before the sale and delivery of such bonds, or who may not have been in office on the date such bonds may bear, the signatures of 330 such officers upon such bonds and coupons shall nevertheless be 331 valid and sufficient for all purposes and have the same effect as 332 if the person so officially signing such bonds had remained in 333 office until their delivery to the purchaser, or had been in 334 335 office on the date such bonds may bear. However, notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such bonds may be issued as 336 provided in the Registered Bond Act of the State of Mississippi. 337 SECTION 6. All bonds and interest coupons issued under the 338 provisions of Sections 2 through 17 of this act have all the 339 qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the 340 provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, and in exercising the 341 342 powers granted by Sections 2 through 17 of this act, the commission shall not be required to and need not comply with the 343 344 provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code. SECTION 7. The commission shall act as the issuing agent for 345 the bonds authorized under Sections 2 through 17 of this act, 346 prescribe the form of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids, 347 issue and sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees 348 349 and costs incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all other things necessary and advisable in connection with the 350 issuance and sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and 351 empowered to pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance 352 353 and delivery of the bonds authorized under Sections 2 through 17 354 of this act from the proceeds derived from the sale of such bonds. The commission shall sell such bonds on sealed bids at public 355 356 sale, and for such price as it may determine to be for the best 357 interest of the State of Mississippi, but no such sale shall be

bonds may be executed by the facsimile signatures of such

358 made at a price less than par plus accrued interest to the date of

359 delivery of the bonds to the purchaser. All interest accruing on

360 such bonds so issued shall be payable semiannually or annually;

361 however, the first interest payment may be for any period of not

362 more than one (1) year.

Notice of the sale of any such bonds shall be published at

364 least one (1) time, not less than ten (10) days before the date of

365 sale, and shall be so published in one or more newspapers

366 published or having a general circulation in the City of Jackson,

367 Mississippi, and in one or more other newspapers or financial

journals with a national circulation, to be selected by the

369 commission.

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The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of

371 Sections 2 through 17 of this act, may provide that bonds, at the

372 option of the State of Mississippi, may be called in for payment

373 and redemption at the call price named therein and accrued

374 interest on such date or dates named therein.

375 **SECTION 8.** The bonds issued under the provisions of Sections

2 through 17 of this act are general obligations of the State of

377 Mississippi, and for the payment thereof the full faith and credit

378 of the State of Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. If the funds

379 appropriated by the Legislature are insufficient to pay the

380 principal of and the interest on such bonds as they become due,

then the deficiency shall be paid by the State Treasurer from any

382 funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such

383 bonds shall contain recitals on their faces substantially covering

384 the provisions of this section.

385 **SECTION 9.** Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the

386 provisions of Sections 2 through 17 of this act, the commission

387 shall transfer the proceeds of any such sale or sales to the State

388 Aid Road Fund created by Section 67-9-17. The proceeds of such

389 bonds shall be disbursed from the State Aid Road Fund as otherwise

390 provided by law.

SECTION 10. The bonds authorized under Sections 2 through 17 391 of this act may be issued without any other proceedings or the 392 happening of any other conditions or things other than those 393 394 proceedings, conditions and things which are specified or required 395 by Sections 2 through 17 of this act. Any resolution providing for the issuance of bonds under the provisions of Sections 2 396 through 17 of this act shall become effective immediately upon its 397 adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be adopted 398 399 at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a majority of its members. 400 401 SECTION 11. The bonds authorized under the authority of Sections 2 through 17 of this act may be validated in the Chancery 402 Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, 403 404 in the manner and with the force and effect provided by Chapter 13, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the validation of 405 county, municipal, school district and other bonds. The notice to 406 taxpayers required by such statutes shall be published in a 407 408 newspaper published or having a general circulation in the City of 409 Jackson, Mississippi. 410 SECTION 12. Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of Sections 2 through 17 of this act or of any of the interest 411 412 coupons pertaining thereto may, either at law or in equity, by 413 suit, action, mandamus or other proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights granted under Sections 2 through 17 of this 414 415 act, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel performance of all duties required by Sections 2 through 17 of 416 417 this act to be performed, in order to provide for the payment of bonds and interest thereon. 418 SECTION 13. All bonds issued under the provisions of 419 420 Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and for savings banks, trust 421

companies and insurance companies organized under the laws of the

State of Mississippi, and such bonds shall be legal securities

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- 424 which may be deposited with and shall be received by all public
- 425 officers and bodies of this state and all municipalities and
- 426 political subdivisions for the purpose of securing the deposit of
- 427 public funds.
- 428 **SECTION 14.** Bonds issued under the provisions of Sections 2
- 429 through 17 of this act and income therefrom shall be exempt from
- 430 all taxation in the State of Mississippi.
- 431 **SECTION 15.** The proceeds of the bonds issued under Sections
- 432 2 through 17 of this act shall be used solely for the purposes
- 433 herein provided, including the costs incident to the issuance and
- 434 sale of such bonds.
- 435 **SECTION 16.** The State Treasurer is authorized, without
- 436 further process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance
- 437 and Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department
- 438 of Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue
- 439 such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due
- 440 the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the
- 441 accreted value of, all bonds issued under Sections 2 through 17 of
- 442 this act; and the State Treasurer shall forward the necessary
- 443 amount to the designated place or places of payment of such bonds
- 444 in ample time to discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on
- 445 the due dates thereof.
- 446 SECTION 17. This act shall be deemed to be full and complete
- 447 authority for the exercise of the powers herein granted, but
- 448 Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall not be deemed to repeal or
- 449 to be in derogation of any existing law of this state.
- 450 **SECTION 18.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 451 and after its passage.