

By: Representative Janus

To: Transportation; Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 80

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 LIMIT THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TO
3 PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN GAMING COUNTIES; TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-3,
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO RESTRICT THE EXPENDITURE OF MONIES IN
5 THE GAMING COUNTIES BOND SINKING FUND TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST
6 ON AND PRINCIPAL OF BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
7 PROVIDING FUNDS FOR GAMING COUNTIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; AND
8 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
13 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming
14 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section
15 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to
16 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,
17 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way
18 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or
19 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,
20 four-lane and multilane roads (or segments thereof), perform
21 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay
22 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic
23 modifications, within * * * those counties in this state where
24 legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any highway,
25 road, street or bridge that is authorized to be constructed,
26 reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards established
27 by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall be
28 constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand
29 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the
30 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the



31 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
32 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and
33 maintenance.

34 (2) The projects authorized in subsection (1) of this
35 section shall include, but shall not be limited to, highways,
36 roads, streets and bridges on and along the following locations:

37 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
38 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including
39 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
40 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

41 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
42 3;

43 (c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

44 (d) Lorraine_Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

45 (e) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in
46 Gulfport;

47 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee state
48 line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
49 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
50 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
51 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
52 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
53 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

54 (g) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;

55 (h) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110
56 to U.S. 49;

57 (i) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the
58 Tennessee state line;

59 (j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
60 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending
61 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of
62 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;



63 (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,
64 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of
65 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing
66 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba County
67 line; and

68 (iii) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
69 beginning at the Leake/Neshoba County line and extending easterly
70 to not more than ten (10) miles east of Mississippi 15;

71 (k) Lorraine_Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to
72 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

73 (l) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82
74 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;

75 (m) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.
76 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including
77 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north
78 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to
79 Interstate Highway 20;

80 (n) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,
81 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street in the City of Natchez;

82 (o) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 90
83 in the City of Pass Christian;

84 (p) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing
85 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point
86 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603
87 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

88 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
89 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
90 Picayune;

91 (r) U.S. 49 from U.S. 61 west to the Mississippi River
92 bridge;

93 (s) Subject to the conditions prescribed in subsection
94 (3) of this section, a central Harrison County connector from I-10



95 to U.S. 90 in the vicinity of Canal Road to the Mississippi State
96 Port at Gulfport;

97 (t) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90 to
98 I-10 to be located between the Cowan-Lorraine Road interchange and
99 the I-110 interchange; and

100 (u) At various locations on, along and approaching U.S.
101 Highway 90 in Harrison, Hancock and Jackson Counties, which the
102 Mississippi Transportation Commission determines will alleviate
103 traffic congestion in Harrison, Hancock and Jackson Counties.

104 (3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph
105 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the
106 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by
107 the Mississippi Development Authority to make available for such
108 project not less than Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00).

109 (4) If a project authorized in this section is also included
110 in the four-lane highway program under Section 65-3-97(3), then
111 all contracts necessary to be let for the completion of the
112 project under this section shall be let not later than the
113 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the
114 project under Section 65-3-97(3). Prioritization of construction
115 for all other projects authorized in this section shall be
116 conducted as provided for in Section 65-3-97(4).

117 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this
118 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under
119 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
120 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
121 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
122 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

123 (b) In addition to the funds provided for under
124 paragraph (a) of this subsection, funds for the project described
125 in subsection (2)(s) of this section also may be provided from any
126 available federal, state, county or municipal funds authorized for
127 such project, including the Economic Development Highway Act.



128 **SECTION 2.** Section 65-39-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
129 amended as follows:

130 65-39-3. There is created in the State Treasury a special
131 fund to be designated as the "Gaming Counties Bond Sinking Fund."
132 From and after July 1, 2003, such monies as the Legislature
133 directs or provides to be deposited into the fund may be expended,
134 upon legislative appropriation, only to pay the interest on and
135 principal of bonds issued pursuant to Sections 65-39-5 through
136 65-39-33 or to pay the interest on and principal of notes issued
137 under Section 31-17-127 for the purpose of providing funds for
138 infrastructure projects under Section 65-39-1 * * *. Unexpended
139 amounts remaining in the sinking fund at the end of the fiscal
140 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest
141 earned on amounts in the sinking fund shall be deposited to the
142 credit of the sinking fund.

143 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
144 and after July 1, 2003.

