

By: Representative Pierce

To: Local and Private  
Legislation; Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1801

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF BEAUMONT, MISSISSIPPI, TO  
2 OPERATE ITS NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS  
3 OUTSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BEAUMONT; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of  
7 Section 21-27-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, to the contrary, the  
8 governing authorities of the Town of Beaumont in Perry County,  
9 Mississippi, in their discretion, may construct, expand, operate  
10 and maintain the natural gas distribution system of the Town of  
11 Beaumont within any area described in paragraph (b) of this  
12 subsection (1), which is not certified to another natural gas  
13 utility for such service, or if certificated, upon obtaining a  
14 release from that utility and a Certificate of Public Convenience  
15 and Necessity from the Public Service Commission. Whenever such  
16 natural gas utility service is furnished to any consumer residing  
17 outside the corporate limits of the Town of Beaumont, the consumer  
18 may not be charged at a rate greater than twice the rate charged  
19 for the same service within the corporate limits of the Town of  
20 Beaumont.

21 (b) The areas within which the Town of Beaumont may  
22 construct, expand, operate and maintain its natural gas system  
23 pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) are described as  
24 follows:

25 Area No. 1:

26 Perry County, Mississippi, Township 4 North, Range 10  
27 West, Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34,  
28 35 and 36.

29           **Area No. 2:**  
30           Perry County, Mississippi, Township 4 North, Range 9  
31           West, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,  
32           23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and  
33           36.

34           **Area No. 3:**  
35           Perry County, Mississippi, Township 3 North, Range 9 West,  
36           all 36 sections.

37           **Area No. 4:**  
38           Perry County, Mississippi, Township 3 North, Range 10  
39           West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23,  
40           24 and 25.

41           All of Sections 26, 27 and 36 lying North and East of  
42           the South and West boundary of Highway 98, being  
43           otherwise described as Sections 26, 27 and 36, less and  
44           except all land lying and being situated South and West  
45           of the South and West boundary of Highway 98.

46           Section 21:   SE 1/4 of SE 1/4

47                           NE 1/4 of SE 1/4

48           Section 28:   NE 1/4 of NE 1/4

49                           SE 1/4 of NE 1/4

50           **Area No. 5:**  
51           Perry County, Mississippi, Township 2 North, Range 9  
52           West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,  
53           13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36.

54           **Area No. 6:**  
55           Perry County, Mississippi, Township 1 North, Range 9  
56           West, Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12.

57           (2) The authority conferred by this act shall not be  
58           construed as an exemption from the provisions of Section 77-3-1 et  
59           seq., Mississippi Code of 1972. The Town of Beaumont shall be  
60           required to obtain from the Public Service Commission a  
61           Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, obtain approval

62 of all rates and charges for providing natural gas service to  
63 those areas which are more than one (1) mile outside its corporate  
64 boundaries, and shall be otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of  
65 the Public Service Commission as authorized by applicable law.

66 (3) The governing authorities of the Town of Beaumont shall  
67 make a reasonable effort to provide natural gas service to each  
68 consumer within the distribution system who requests such service.  
69 For the purpose of this subsection, the term "distribution system"  
70 means all areas that are described in subsection (1)(b) of this  
71 section.

72 (4) The governing authorities of the Town of Beaumont shall  
73 have a financial report on the natural gas distribution system  
74 filed annually with the State Auditor for his review. The audited  
75 financial statements shall be maintained in the office of the  
76 system for public inspection and shall be made available to the  
77 public during normal business hours.

78 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
79 and after its passage.