

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.