

By: Representative Fleming

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 161

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE PUBLIC/MASS TRANSIT TASK FORCE TO STUDY
2 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE WITH REGARD TO PRESENT
3 AND FUTURE NEEDS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Public/Mass Transit
7 Task Force to study and make recommendations with regard to
8 present and future needs of public transportation in Mississippi.
9 The task force shall make a report of its findings and
10 recommendations to the Legislature during the 2006 Regular
11 Legislative Session, including any recommended legislation.

12 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following nine
13 (9) members:

14 (a) The Chairman of the House Transportation Committee;

15 (b) The Chairman of the Senate Highways and
16 Transportation Committee;

17 (c) Two (2) members of the Mississippi Public
18 Transportation Association appointed by the association's
19 executive director;

20 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
21 Department of Transportation;

22 (e) The Director of Public Transit of the Mississippi
23 Department of Transportation; and

24 (f) Three (3) persons appointed by the Governor, each
25 of whom represents either metropolitan planning organizations or
26 planning and development districts.

27 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
28 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days

29 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
30 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force shall meet and
31 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice
32 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
33 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
34 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
35 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
36 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
37 of the task force shall be required. All members shall be
38 notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at
39 least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to
40 be held.

41 (4) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state
42 officials or state employees shall be compensated at the per diem
43 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in
44 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
45 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members
46 of the task force shall be paid from the contingent expense funds
47 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for
48 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session.
49 However, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task
50 force will be paid to legislative members of the task force while
51 the Legislature is in session. No task force member may incur per
52 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by
53 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be
54 recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative
55 members shall be paid from any funds made available to the task
56 force for that purpose.

57 (5) The task force shall use clerical and legal staff
58 already employed by the Legislature and any other staff assistance
59 made available to it. To effectuate the purposes of this section,
60 any department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of
61 the state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the

62 request of the chairman of the task force, provide to the task
63 force such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task
64 force properly to carry out its duties.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2005.