

By: Representatives Miles, Cummings,  
Carlton, Formby, Jennings, Markham,  
Montgomery, Moore, Moss, Rogers (61st), Ward,  
Weathersby

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 928

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-37-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT BRIDGES CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE LOCAL SYSTEM BRIDGE  
3 PROGRAM SHALL EQUAL OR EXCEED THE DESIGN AND STANDARDS PRESCRIBED  
4 FOR BRIDGES BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND  
5 TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-37-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 65-37-5. In administering the provisions of Sections 65-37-1  
10 through 65-37-15, the State Aid Engineer shall have the following  
11 powers and duties:

12 (a) To supervise the use of all funds made available  
13 under Sections 65-37-1 through 65-37-15 for local bridge  
14 replacement and rehabilitation projects on local road systems;

15 (b) To review and certify all projects for which funds  
16 are authorized to be made available under Sections 65-37-1 through  
17 65-37-15 for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects  
18 on local road systems;

19 (c) To requisition monies in the Local System Bridge  
20 Replacement and Rehabilitation Fund and pay and distribute those  
21 monies on a project-by-project basis in accordance with the  
22 allocation formula established by Section 65-37-3;

23 (d) To insure that each four-year plan submitted by a  
24 county to the State Aid Engineer and the funds allocated to a  
25 county under Sections 65-37-1 through 65-37-15 provide for an  
26 equitable distribution of projects and funds among the county and  
27 incorporated municipalities located therein based upon the number

28 and costs of deficient bridges in both the county and the  
29 municipalities;

30 (e) To establish and require specific designs and  
31 standards to be followed by the counties in replacing and  
32 rehabilitating bridges under Sections 65-37-1 through 65-37-15,  
33 which designs and standards shall equal or exceed the design and  
34 standards prescribed for bridges by the American Association of  
35 State Highway and Transportation officials;

36 (f) To maintain an accurate record of all local bridge  
37 replacement and rehabilitation funds allocated to counties and of  
38 the number of bridges replaced or rehabilitated, their location  
39 and the costs for each project. Such records shall be kept  
40 separate from other records of the Office of State Aid Road  
41 Construction;

42 (g) To periodically notify the counties of bridges  
43 eligible for replacement and rehabilitation under the provisions  
44 of Sections 65-37-1 through 65-37-15;

45 (h) To adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations  
46 as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of implementing  
47 the provisions of Sections 65-37-1 through 65-37-15; and

48 (i) To file annually with the Legislature a report  
49 detailing how monies in the Local System Bridge Replacement and  
50 Rehabilitation Fund were spent during the preceding fiscal year in  
51 each county, including in the incorporated municipalities of each  
52 county, the number of projects approved and constructed, the  
53 length of bridges completed and the cost per foot of each bridge  
54 constructed.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
56 and after July 1, 2006.