

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Local and Private

SENATE BILL NO. 2997

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF THE TOWN OF  
2 RALEIGH IN SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, TO EXPAND ITS GAS  
3 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE OUTSIDE THE  
4 CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of Section  
7 21-27-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, to the contrary, the governing  
8 authorities of the Town of Raleigh in Smith County, Mississippi,  
9 in their discretion, may construct, expand, operate and maintain  
10 the gas distribution system of the town for a distance not to  
11 exceed six (6) miles from the corporate limits of the town.  
12 Whenever such gas utility service is furnished to any consumer  
13 residing outside the corporate limits of the town, the consumer  
14 may not be charged at a rate greater than twice the rate charged  
15 for the same service within the corporate limits of the city.

16 (2) The authority conferred by this act shall not be  
17 construed as an exemption from the provisions of Section 77-3-1 et  
18 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as to the requirements for  
19 obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, the  
20 jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission to regulate rates or  
21 any other provisions of that law.

22 (3) The governing authorities of the Town of Raleigh shall  
23 make a reasonable effort to provide service to everyone within the  
24 distribution system who requests service. For the purpose of this  
25 subsection, the "system" shall mean all areas which are being  
26 served on the effective date of this act.

27 (4) The governing authorities of the Town of Raleigh shall  
28 annually have a financial report containing an audit of the

29 natural gas distribution system filed with the State Auditor for  
30 his review. The financial statements shall be maintained in the  
31 office of the system for public inspection and shall be made  
32 available to the public during normal business hours.

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