

By: Senator(s) King

To: Public Utilities

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2690

1 AN ACT TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 77-15-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE
2 OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE PROVISION OF LAW WHICH
3 CREATES THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CHICKASAWHAY NATURAL GAS
4 DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 77-15-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 reenacted and amended as follows:

8 77-15-1. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to
9 the contrary, all local natural gas districts containing two (2)
10 or more municipalities and nonmunicipal customers shall establish
11 and maintain a board of directors composed of: (a) the mayors of
12 each municipality within the district whose terms shall be
13 concurrent with their terms of office as mayor; and (b) one (1)
14 system-user from each county within the district, who shall not be
15 a public official. The county system-user board members shall be
16 elected by the system-users residing outside of a municipality, in
17 the county in which such board member resides. In order to
18 qualify as a candidate for election to the board, each person
19 shall obtain, on a petition, twenty-five (25) signatures from
20 system-users in the county in which such person resides. The
21 signatures shall be of system-users residing outside of a
22 municipality and the candidate shall be a system-user who resides
23 outside of a municipality. The board shall call an election
24 within fifteen (15) days after July 1, 1989, to be held within
25 sixty (60) days from the date such election is called. Those
26 persons elected to the board shall serve until the next general
27 election for supervisors and the election for such board members
28 thereafter shall be held at the same time as the supervisor

29 elections and the terms of such board members shall be concurrent
30 with the terms of the supervisors. The board of directors,
31 including any mayors who serve on the board, shall be entitled to
32 compensation as follows: (a) the chairperson of the board shall
33 receive Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per month, and (b) all
34 other board members shall receive Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)
35 per month. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall be elected
36 by and from the entire membership of the governing board at the
37 first meeting in July of each year. The vice chairperson shall
38 preside over meetings as the chairperson in the absence or
39 incapacity of the chairperson. In addition, an official meeting
40 may be called at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) proclamation by
41 the board membership.

42 (2) Two (2) board municipal/county system-user board members
43 who reside in his or her respective county, and must be customers
44 of the district, and who must be system-users shall be appointed
45 as follows for his or her initial term: (a) one (1) board member
46 from the county lying in the northern section of the district,
47 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and (b) one (1) board member
48 from the county lying in the southern section of the district,
49 appointed by the Governor. The appointed board municipal/county
50 system-user board members may be elected public officials.

51 The initial terms of the two (2) municipal/county system-user
52 board members shall begin July 1, 2005, and shall serve until June
53 30, 2008, and thereafter the municipal/county system-user board
54 members, as described in this subsection (2), shall be elected at
55 large by the municipal and county system-users.

56 The municipal/county system-user board members shall be
57 compensated as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

58 (3) All board members shall file any required statements of
59 economic interest with the Ethics Commission as required by law.
60 This section shall not apply to any local natural gas district

61 which leases its distribution system to an investor-owned utility
62 company regulated by the Public Service Commission.

63 (4) From and after July 1, 2004, the Board of Directors of
64 the Chickasawhay Natural Gas District shall discontinue
65 distribution of any of the revenues of the district to
66 municipalities within the district.

67 (5) The provisions of this section shall only apply to the
68 Chickasawhay Natural Gas District.

69 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

70 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after July 1, 2007.