

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: County Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2954

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-9-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES THAT MAY BY AGREEMENT EMPLOY THE
3 SAME COUNTY ENGINEER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-9-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 65-9-15. Nothing herein shall prevent any county from
8 employing, by agreement with not more than six (6) other counties,
9 the same engineer to act as county engineer for each and all of
10 said counties so agreeing. Each county engineer shall give bond,
11 with sufficient surety, to be payable, conditioned and approved as
12 provided by law, in a penalty equal to Ten Thousand Dollars
13 (\$10,000.00). If a county engineer is engineer for two (2) or
14 more counties, the same bond shall serve as said engineer's bond
15 in and for each county, respectively, and the premium on said bond
16 and the salary and expenses of such engineer and assistants shall
17 be divided between and paid by the counties for whom he is so
18 employed in such proportions as may be agreed upon by said
19 counties. In the event any county is unable to obtain the
20 services of a competent engineer, the transportation commission
21 may loan such county an engineer, if available, for a specified
22 period of time, by granting such engineer a leave of absence for
23 such period without loss of any benefits accruing to him by reason
24 of length of service; and such time so spent on such leave of
25 absence shall be counted as part of such engineer's length of
26 service with the Department of Transportation. The salary of such

27 engineer so loaned shall be paid by the county or the counties to
28 whom he is loaned.

29 The salary and other expenses, including the premium on all
30 bonds, of the county engineer and his assistants shall be paid by
31 the county or counties employing such county engineer and
32 assistants. Any salary limitations or ceiling heretofore placed
33 by law on the salary of a county engineer is hereby removed as to
34 county engineers employed under the terms of this chapter. In
35 lieu of salary and other expenses, any county may employ a
36 registered civil engineer on a fee basis for furnishing complete
37 engineering services on state aid projects. Engineering costs,
38 including the salaries or fees of the county engineer, incurred on
39 state aid projects may be paid from state aid funds allocated to
40 said county or counties, with the methods of payments to be
41 approved by the State Aid Engineer under regulations promulgated
42 by the State Aid Engineer; however, unless the project is being
43 partially funded with federal funds, no such costs shall be paid
44 to the county from state aid funds prior to the approval for
45 advertisement for bids for a project by the State Aid Engineer. If
46 the project is being partially funded with federal funds, the
47 State Aid Engineer may approve payment of a portion of such costs
48 from state aid funds prior to the approval for advertisement for
49 bids.

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