

**No Action  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1501**

**BY: Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

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.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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.