

By: Representatives Byrd, Carpenter, Arnold, To: Ways and Means
Hale, Powell, Rushing, Reynolds, Steverson,
Anthony, Bounds, Hines, Miles, Hudson, Paden

HOUSE BILL NO. 721

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17-23-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL ROUND OF FIRE TRUCKS FOR COUNTIES AND
3 MUNICIPALITIES UNDER THE RURAL FIRE TRUCK ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 17-23-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 17-23-1. (1) There is established the Rural Fire Truck
9 Acquisition Assistance Program to be administered by the
10 Department of Insurance for the purpose of assisting counties and
11 municipalities in the acquisition of fire trucks.

12 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
13 be designated as the "Rural Fire Truck Fund." The Legislature may
14 appropriate that amount necessary to fulfill the obligations
15 created under this section by the Department of Insurance, from
16 the State General Fund to such special fund, which sum shall be
17 added to the remainder of the money transferred on July 1, 1995,
18 and during the 1996 Regular Session to the Rural Fire Truck Fund.
19 Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal



20 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest
21 earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of
22 the fund. Unobligated amounts remaining in the Rural Fire Truck
23 Fund, Fund No. 3507, or in any fund created for funds appropriated
24 or otherwise made available for this program, may be used as
25 matching funds by any county with remaining eligibility as
26 provided herein. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
27 Department of Insurance continue to accept applications from the
28 counties for fire trucks as provided in subsection (3) of this
29 section.

30 (3) (a) A county that meets the requirements provided
31 herein may receive an amount not to exceed * * * Nine Hundred
32 Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$920,000.00) as provided in subparagraphs
33 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xi),
34 (xii) * * *, (xiii) and (xiv) of this paragraph, and such amount
35 shall be divided as follows: an amount of not more than Fifty
36 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per fire truck for the first six (6)
37 trucks and not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per
38 fire truck for the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh
39 trucks, and not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per
40 fire truck for the twelfth * * *, thirteenth and fourteenth truck.
41 Monies distributed under this chapter shall be expended only for
42 the purchase of new fire trucks and such trucks must meet the
43 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards in the 1900
44 series.



45 (i) Any county that has not applied for a fire
46 truck under this section is eligible to submit applications
47 for * * * fourteen (14) fire trucks as follows: six (6) fire
48 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
49 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
50 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at
51 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
52 total of * * * Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$920,000.00).

53 (ii) Any county that has received one (1) fire
54 truck under this section is eligible to submit applications
55 for * * * thirteen (13) fire trucks as follows: five (5) fire
56 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
57 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
58 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at
59 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
60 total of * * * Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars
61 (\$870,000.00).

62 (iii) Any county that has received two (2) fire
63 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
64 for * * * twelve (12) fire trucks as follows: four (4) fire
65 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
66 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
67 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at
68 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a



69 total of not more than * * * Eight Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars
70 (\$820,000.00).

71 (iv) Any county that has received three (3) fire
72 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
73 for * * * eleven (11) fire trucks as follows: three (3) fire
74 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
75 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
76 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at
77 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
78 total of not more than * * * Seven Hundred Seventy Thousand
79 Dollars (\$770,000.00).

80 (v) Any county that has received four (4) fire
81 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
82 for * * * ten (10) fire trucks as follows: two (2) fire trucks at
83 not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per truck and
84 five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars
85 (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not
86 more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
87 total of not more than * * * Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars
88 (\$720,000.00).

89 (vi) Any county that has received five (5) fire
90 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
91 for * * * nine (9) fire trucks as follows: one (1) fire truck at
92 not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per truck and
93 five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars



94 (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not
95 more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
96 total of not more than * * * Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars
97 (\$670,000.00).

98 (vii) Any county that has received six (6) fire
99 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
100 for * * * eight (8) fire trucks as follows: five (5) fire trucks
101 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
102 and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
103 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
104 Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$620,000.00).

105 (viii) Any county that has received seven (7) fire
106 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
107 for * * * seven (7) fire trucks as follows: four (4) fire trucks
108 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
109 and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
110 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
111 Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000.00).

112 (ix) Any county that has received eight (8) fire
113 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
114 for * * * six (6) fire trucks as follows: three (3) fire trucks
115 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
116 and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
117 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
118 Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00).



(x) Any county that has received nine (9) fire trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application for * * * five (5) fire trucks as follows: two (2) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * * Four Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$410,000.00).

(xi) Any county that has received ten (10) fire trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application for * * * four (4) fire trucks as follows: one (1) fire truck at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * * Three Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$340,000.00).

(xii) Any county that has received eleven (11) fire trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application for * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck.

(xiii) Any county may apply for * * * three (3) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck as provided in subparagraph (xii), provided that the county agrees to forego any previous fire truck under subparagraphs (i) through (xi) for which the county has not previously applied, and that the county has received approval from



the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program Committee to
apply for and receive a truck under subparagraph (xii).

(b) The board of supervisors of the county shall submit
its request for the receipt of monies to the Department of
Insurance. A committee composed of the Commissioner of Insurance,
the State Fire Coordinator, the Director of the Rating Bureau and
the Director of the State Fire Academy shall review the requests
by the boards of supervisors and shall determine whether the
county or municipality for which the board of supervisors has
requested a truck meets the requirements of eligibility under this
chapter.

(c) To be eligible to receive monies under this
chapter:

(i) A county or municipality must pledge to set
aside or dedicate each year as matching funds, for a period not to
extend over ten (10) years, local funds in an amount equal to or
not less than one-tenth (1/10) of the amount of monies for which
it is requesting distribution from the Rural Fire Truck Fund,
which pledged monies may be derived from local ad valorem tax
authorized by law or from any other funds available to the county
or municipality, except for those funds received by municipalities
or counties from the Municipal Fire Protection Fund or the County
Volunteer Fire Department Fund, as defined in Sections 83-1-37 and
83-1-39.



(ii) A municipality must provide adequate documentation of its contract with the county that requires the municipality to provide fire protection in rural areas. The term "rural areas" means any area within the county located outside the boundaries of an incorporated municipality or any incorporated municipality with a population of two thousand five hundred (2,500) or less.

(d) The Department of Insurance shall maintain an accurate record of all monies distributed to counties and municipalities and the number of fire trucks purchased and the cost for each fire truck, such records to be kept separate from other records of the Department of Insurance; notify counties and municipalities of the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program and the requirements for them to become eligible to participate; adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and desirable to implement the provisions of this chapter; and file with the Legislature a report detailing how monies made available under this chapter were distributed and spent during the preceding portion of the fiscal year in each county and municipality, the number of fire trucks purchased, the counties and municipalities making such purchases, and the cost of each fire truck purchased.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2020.

