

By: Representatives Creekmore IV, Reynolds,  
Deweese, Massengill, Steverson, Rosebud

To: Conservation and Water  
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1323

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TALLAHATCHIE RIVER AUTHORITY TO BE  
2 COMPOSED OF THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF THE COUNTIES THAT THE  
3 TALLAHATCHIE RIVER OR LITTLE TALLAHATCHIE RIVER TRAVERSE OR BORDER  
4 IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, SUBJECT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
5 OF A COUNTY VOTING AND SPREADING ON ITS MINUTES THE DECISION TO  
6 PARTICIPATE IN THE AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH PARTICIPATING  
7 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY SELECT ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF  
8 DIRECTORS; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE TALLAHATCHIE RIVER  
9 AUTHORITY; TO AUTHORIZE EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTY BOARD OF  
10 SUPERVISORS TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THE AUTHORITY; AND FOR RELATED  
11 PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby created the Tallahatchie River  
14 Authority composed of the geographic boundaries of the following  
15 counties that the Tallahatchie River or Little Tallahatchie River  
16 traverse or border in the State of Mississippi, subject to the  
17 board of supervisors of a county voting and spreading on its  
18 minutes the decision to participate in the authority: Leflore,  
19 Tallahatchie, Quitman, Panola, Lafayette, Marshall, Union and  
20 Tippah. The authority shall be governed by a board of directors  
21 consisting of one (1) member from each of the counties eligible  
22 and whose board chooses to participate. Board members shall be



23 appointed by the appointing authorities within sixty (60) days  
24 after passage of this act. Board members shall serve without pay  
25 except for their actual traveling expenses and other necessary  
26 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, to  
27 be reimbursed as in the case of state employees under the  
28 provisions of general law from such funds as may be available to  
29 the authority. Upon appointment said members shall meet and  
30 organize at Charleston, Mississippi, set a regular time and place  
31 for the meetings of the authority, and secure offices and all  
32 necessary equipment therefor. A full-time executive director may  
33 be appointed by the board if the board deems the appointment  
34 advisable, and, if a director is appointed, he shall be full-time  
35 and shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The salary of a  
36 director may be paid out of such funds as may be available to the  
37 authority or from any source.

38 **SECTION 2.** The Tallahatchie River Authority is specifically  
39 authorized and empowered to contract with and to be contracted  
40 with by the Tennessee Valley Authority and any other agency or  
41 agencies of the federal government or of any state or subdivision  
42 thereof which may be of assistance in carrying out the purposes  
43 set forth herein, and to do any and all other things necessary or  
44 desirable in effectuating a plan for the comprehensive development  
45 of the resources of the authority's geographic region, including,  
46 but not limited to, such subjects as agriculture, tourism,  
47 economic development, forestry, drainage and flood control, land



48 reclamation, electric power utilization, irrigation, water  
49 conservation, recreation, public health and education, said  
50 program of development to be carried on in cooperation with the  
51 appropriate local, state and federal agencies. All agencies of  
52 the State of Mississippi are hereby authorized, empowered, and  
53 directed to extend their cooperation and assistance to the said  
54 Tallahatchie River Authority in the formulation and implementation  
55 of the said program of development.

56       **SECTION 3.** Each of the counties in which the Tallahatchie  
57 River Authority is located is authorized and empowered to  
58 contribute any amount or amounts which the board of supervisors  
59 thereof shall deem advisable, acting in their sole discretion, to  
60 be paid from the general county fund of the respective counties.

61       **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2022.

