

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

To: Conservation and Water
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1323
(As Passed the House)

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 tourism, economic
47 development, forestry, drainage and land reclamation and



48 preservation, bank stabilization electric power utilization, 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.

