

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

To: Conservation and Water  
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1323  
(As Sent to Governor)

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



23 board of supervisors chooses to participate. Board members shall  
24 be appointed by the appointing authorities within sixty (60) days  
25 after passage of this act.

26 (2) The boards of supervisors of the counties of Leflore and  
27 Tallahatchie shall each appoint a member from their respective  
28 counties for an initial term of one (1) year; the boards of  
29 supervisors of the counties of Quitman and Panola shall each  
30 appoint a member from their respective counties for an initial  
31 term of two (2) years; the boards of supervisors of the counties  
32 of Lafayette and Marshall shall each appoint a member from their  
33 respective counties for an initial term of three (3) years; and  
34 the boards of supervisors of the counties of Union and Tippah  
35 shall each appoint a member from their respective counties for an  
36 initial term of four (4) years. All appointments made after the  
37 initial appointments shall be for terms of four (4) years each  
38 from the expiration of the previous term, or until a successor is  
39 appointed and qualifies.

40 (3) Board members shall serve without pay. Upon appointment  
41 the members shall meet and organize at Charleston, Mississippi,  
42 set a regular time and place for the meetings of the authority,  
43 and secure offices and all necessary equipment therefor. A  
44 full-time executive director may be appointed by the board if the  
45 board deems the appointment advisable, and, if a director is  
46 appointed, he or she shall be full-time and shall serve at the  
47 pleasure of the board. The salary of a director may be paid out



48 of such funds as may be available to the authority or from any  
49 source.

50 **SECTION 2.** The Tallahatchie River Authority is specifically  
51 authorized and empowered to contract with and to be contracted  
52 with by the Tennessee Valley Authority and any other agency or  
53 agencies of the federal government or of any state or subdivision  
54 thereof which may be of assistance in carrying out the purposes  
55 set forth in this act. In addition, the authority is empowered to  
56 do any and all other things necessary or desirable in effectuating  
57 a plan for the comprehensive development of the resources of the  
58 authority's geographic region, including, but not limited to, such  
59 subjects as tourism, economic development, forestry, drainage and  
60 land reclamation and preservation, bank stabilization, electric  
61 power utilization, water conservation, recreation, public health  
62 and education, such program of development to be carried on in  
63 cooperation with the appropriate local, state and federal  
64 agencies. All agencies of the State of Mississippi are hereby  
65 authorized, empowered, and directed to extend their cooperation  
66 and assistance to the Tallahatchie River Authority in the  
67 formulation and implementation of the program of development.

68 **SECTION 3.** Each of the counties in which the Tallahatchie  
69 River Authority is located is authorized and empowered to  
70 contribute any amount or amounts which the board of supervisors  
71 thereof deems advisable, acting in their sole discretion, to be  
72 paid from the general county fund of the respective counties.



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

