

By: Representative Carpenter

To: Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 693

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 21-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SURETY BOND SHALL NOT EXCEED
3 ONE MILLION DOLLARS RATHER THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR
4 MUNICIPAL ALDERMEN AND COUNCILMEN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 21-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 21-17-5. (1) The governing authorities of every
9 municipality of this state shall have the care, management and
10 control of the municipal affairs and its property and finances.
11 In addition to those powers granted by specific provisions of
12 general law, the governing authorities of municipalities shall
13 have the power to adopt any orders, resolutions or ordinances with
14 respect to such municipal affairs, property and finances which are
15 not inconsistent with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the
16 Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other statute or law of the State
17 of Mississippi, and shall likewise have the power to alter, modify
18 and repeal such orders, resolutions or ordinances. Except as
19 otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, the powers



20 granted to governing authorities of municipalities in this section
21 are complete without the existence of or reference to any specific
22 authority granted in any other statute or law of the State of
23 Mississippi. Unless otherwise provided by law, before entering
24 upon the duties of their respective offices, the aldermen or
25 councilmen of every municipality of this state shall give bond,
26 with sufficient surety, to be payable, conditioned and approved as
27 provided by law, in a penalty equal to five percent (5%) of the
28 sum of all the municipal taxes shown by the assessment rolls and
29 the levies to have been collectible in the municipality for the
30 year immediately preceding the commencement of the term of office
31 of * * * such alderman or councilman; however, such bond shall not
32 exceed * * * One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). For all
33 municipalities with a population more than two thousand (2,000)
34 according to the latest federal decennial census, the amount of
35 the bond shall not be less than Fifty Thousand Dollars
36 (\$50,000.00). Any taxpayer of the municipality may sue on such
37 bond for the use of the municipality, and such taxpayer shall be
38 liable for all costs in case his suit shall fail. No member of
39 the city council or board of aldermen shall be surety for any
40 other such member.

41 (2) Unless such actions are specifically authorized by
42 another statute or law of the State of Mississippi, this section
43 shall not authorize the governing authorities of municipalities to
44 (a) levy taxes of any kind or increase the levy of any authorized



45 tax, (b) issue bonds of any kind, (c) change the requirements,
46 practices or procedures for municipal elections or establish any
47 new elective office, (d) change the procedure for annexation of
48 additional territory into the municipal boundaries, (e) change the
49 structure or form of the municipal government, (f) permit the
50 sale, manufacture, distribution, possession or transportation of
51 alcoholic beverages, (g) grant any donation, or (h) without prior
52 legislative approval, regulate, directly or indirectly, the amount
53 of rent charged for leasing private residential property in which
54 the municipality does not have a property interest.

55 (3) Nothing in this or any other section shall be construed
56 so as to prevent any municipal governing authority from paying any
57 municipal employee not to exceed double his ordinary rate of pay
58 or awarding any municipal employee not to exceed double his
59 ordinary rate of compensatory time for work performed in his
60 capacity as a municipal employee on legal holidays. The governing
61 authority of any municipality shall enact leave policies to ensure
62 that a public safety employee is paid or granted compensatory time
63 for the same number of holidays for which any other municipal
64 employee is paid.

65 (4) The governing authority of any municipality, in its
66 discretion, may expend funds to provide for training and education
67 of newly elected or appointed municipal officials before the
68 beginning of the term of office or employment of such officials.
69 Any expenses incurred for such purposes may be allowed only upon



70 prior approval of the governing authority. Any payments or
71 reimbursements made under the provisions of this subsection may be
72 paid only after presentation to and approval by the governing
73 authority of the municipality.

74 (5) The governing authority of any municipality may lease
75 the naming rights to municipal property to a private commercial
76 entity.

77 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
78 and after July 1, 2023.

