

By: Representative Bounds

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 809

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 77-2-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SUBMIT  
3 TO THE GOVERNOR A LIST OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF  
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 77-2-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 77-2-7. (1) An executive director of the Public Utilities  
10 Staff shall be appointed, on or before July 1, 1990, by the  
11 Governor, \* \* \* with the advice and consent of the Senate, to  
12 serve for a term of six (6) years. \* \* \* Whenever any vacancy  
13 shall occur in the position of executive director \* \* \*, the  
14 Governor shall appoint an executive director, as provided herein,  
15 to fill the unexpired term. The executive director shall serve at  
16 the will and pleasure of the Governor.

17 (2) The executive director of the Public Utilities Staff  
18 shall hold at least a bachelors degree and shall have extensive  
19 managerial experience with a thorough knowledge of public utility



20 economics and the principles of utility service and rate  
21 construction. The executive director of the Public Utilities  
22 Staff shall possess the ability to analyze quantitative and  
23 qualitative data and to develop and adjust regulatory strategies  
24 or policies to attain commission objectives. The salary of the  
25 executive director shall be set by the Personnel Board and shall  
26 be such that it is comparable to salaries of those holding similar  
27 positions in other state and federal agencies and commensurate  
28 with the duties and responsibilities imposed on this official  
29 position which affects the broad interests of the State of  
30 Mississippi. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent  
31 reappointment of the executive director for consecutive terms.

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

