

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.

