

By: Representatives Byrd, Bell (21st),
Calvert, Hale, Morgan, Pigott, Smith, Horne,
Carpenter, Bounds, Oliver, Boyd (19th),
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To: Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 504

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17-23-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL ROUND OF FIRE TRUCKS FOR COUNTIES AND
3 MUNICIPALITIES UNDER THE RURAL FIRE TRUCK ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 17-23-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 17-23-1. (1) There is established the Rural Fire Truck
9 Acquisition Assistance Program to be administered by the
10 Department of Insurance for the purpose of assisting counties and
11 municipalities in the acquisition of fire trucks.

12 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
13 be designated as the "Rural Fire Truck Fund." The Legislature may
14 appropriate that amount necessary to fulfill the obligations
15 created under this section by the Department of Insurance, from
16 the State General Fund to such special fund, which sum shall be
17 added to the remainder of the money transferred on July 1, 1995,
18 and during the 1996 Regular Session to the Rural Fire Truck Fund.
19 Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal



20 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest
21 earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of
22 the fund. Unobligated amounts remaining in the Rural Fire Truck
23 Fund, Fund No. 3507, or in any fund created for funds appropriated
24 or otherwise made available for this program, may be used as
25 matching funds by any county with remaining eligibility as
26 provided herein. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
27 Department of Insurance continue to accept applications from the
28 counties for fire trucks as provided in subsection (3) of this
29 section.

30 (3) (a) A county that meets the requirements provided
31 herein may receive an amount not to exceed * * * One Million One
32 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,100,000.00) as provided in
33 subparagraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii),
34 (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) and (xiii) of this paragraph, and such
35 amount shall be divided as follows: an amount of not more than
36 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per fire truck for the first
37 six (6) trucks and not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars
38 (\$70,000.00) per fire truck for the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth
39 and eleventh trucks, and not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars
40 (\$90,000.00) per fire truck for the twelfth, thirteenth,
41 fourteenth * * *, fifteenth and sixteenth truck. Monies
42 distributed under this chapter shall be expended only for the
43 purchase of new or used fire trucks and such trucks must meet the



44 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards in the 1900
45 series and be approved by the Rural Fire Truck Review Committee.

46 (i) Any county that has not applied for a fire
47 truck under this section is eligible to submit applications
48 for * * * sixteen (16) fire trucks as follows: six (6) fire
49 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
50 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
51 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at
52 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
53 total of * * * One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars
54 (\$1,100,000.00).

55 (ii) Any county that has received one (1) fire
56 truck under this section is eligible to submit applications
57 for * * * fifteen (15) fire trucks as follows: five (5) fire
58 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
59 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
60 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at
61 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
62 total of * * * One Million Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,050,000.00).

63 (iii) Any county that has received two (2) fire
64 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
65 for * * * fourteen (14) fire trucks as follows: four (4) fire
66 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
67 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
68 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at



69 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
70 total of not more than * * * One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

71 (iv) Any county that has received three (3) fire
72 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
73 for * * * thirteen (13) fire trucks as follows: three (3) fire
74 trucks at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
75 truck and five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand
76 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at
77 not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a
78 total of not more than * * * Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
79 (\$950,000.00).

80 (v) Any county that has received four (4) fire
81 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
82 for * * * twelve (12) fire trucks as follows: two (2) fire trucks
83 at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per truck and
84 five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars
85 (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more
86 than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of
87 not more than * * * Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00).

88 (vi) Any county that has received five (5) fire
89 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
90 for * * * eleven (11) fire trucks as follows: one (1) fire truck
91 at not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per truck and
92 five (5) fire trucks at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars
93 (\$70,000.00) per truck, and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more



94 than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of
95 not more than * * * Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
96 (\$850,000.00).

97 (vii) Any county that has received six (6) fire
98 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
99 for * * * ten (10) fire trucks as follows: five (5) fire trucks
100 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
101 and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
102 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
103 Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00).

104 (viii) Any county that has received seven (7) fire
105 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
106 for * * * nine (9) fire trucks as follows: four (4) fire trucks
107 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
108 and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
109 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
110 Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$730,000.00).

111 (ix) Any county that has received eight (8) fire
112 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
113 for * * * eight (8) fire trucks as follows: three (3) fire trucks
114 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
115 and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
116 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
117 Six Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$660,000.00).



118 (x) Any county that has received nine (9) fire
119 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
120 for * * * seven (7) fire trucks as follows: two (2) fire trucks
121 at not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
122 and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
123 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
124 Five Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$590,000.00).

125 (xi) Any county that has received ten (10) fire
126 trucks under this section is eligible to submit an application
127 for * * * six (6) fire trucks as follows: one (1) fire truck at
128 not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per truck,
129 and * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand
130 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck or a total of not more than * * *
131 Five Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$520,000.00).

132 (xii) Any county that has received eleven (11)
133 fire trucks under this section is eligible to submit an
134 application for * * * five (5) fire trucks at not more than Ninety
135 Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per truck.

136 (xiii) Any county may apply for * * * five (5)
137 fire trucks at not more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00)
138 per truck as provided in subparagraph (xii), provided that the
139 county agrees to forego any previous fire truck under
140 subparagraphs (i) through (xi) for which the county has not
141 previously applied, and that the county has received approval from



142 the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program Committee to
143 apply for and receive a truck under subparagraph (xii).

144 (b) The board of supervisors of the county shall submit
145 its request for the receipt of monies to the Department of
146 Insurance. A committee composed of the Commissioner of Insurance,
147 the State Fire Coordinator, the Director of the Rating Bureau and
148 the Director of the State Fire Academy shall review the requests
149 by the boards of supervisors and shall determine whether the
150 county or municipality for which the board of supervisors has
151 requested a truck meets the requirements of eligibility under this
152 chapter.

153 (c) To be eligible to receive monies under this
154 chapter:

155 (i) A county or municipality must pledge to set
156 aside or dedicate each year as matching funds, for a period not to
157 extend over ten (10) years, local funds in an amount equal to or
158 not less than one-tenth (1/10) of the amount of monies for which
159 it is requesting distribution from the Rural Fire Truck Fund,
160 which pledged monies may be derived from local ad valorem tax
161 authorized by law or from any other funds available to the county
162 or municipality, except for those funds received by municipalities
163 or counties from the Municipal Fire Protection Fund or the County
164 Volunteer Fire Department Fund, as defined in Sections 83-1-37 and
165 83-1-39.



166 (ii) A municipality must provide adequate
167 documentation of its contract with the county that requires the
168 municipality to provide fire protection in rural areas. The term
169 "rural areas" means any area within the county located outside the
170 boundaries of an incorporated municipality or any incorporated
171 municipality with a population of two thousand five hundred
172 (2,500) or less.

173 (d) The Department of Insurance shall maintain an
174 accurate record of all monies distributed to counties and
175 municipalities and the number of fire trucks purchased and the
176 cost for each fire truck, such records to be kept separate from
177 other records of the Department of Insurance; notify counties and
178 municipalities of the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance
179 Program and the requirements for them to become eligible to
180 participate; adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as
181 may be necessary and desirable to implement the provisions of this
182 chapter; and file with the Legislature a report detailing how
183 monies made available under this chapter were distributed and
184 spent during the preceding portion of the fiscal year in each
185 county and municipality, the number of fire trucks purchased, the
186 counties and municipalities making such purchases, and the cost of
187 each fire truck purchased.

188 (4) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
189 be designated as the "Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund,"
190 which shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature from



191 the State General Fund or any other special source fund. The
192 Department of Insurance shall use the funds for matching
193 assistance to counties and municipalities with remaining
194 eligibility in accordance with the provisions of subsection (5) of
195 this section. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end
196 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and
197 any interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to
198 the credit of the fund.

199 (5) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the
200 Department of Insurance may provide funds to counties and
201 municipalities out of the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance
202 Fund in an amount exceeding the amount authorized in subsection
203 (3) of this section. However, the total amount of funds allowed
204 under this subsection combined with the funds provided in
205 subsection (3) of this section shall not exceed eighty percent
206 (80%) of the purchase price of the rural fire truck. A county or
207 municipality is eligible for such matching assistance upon meeting
208 the following criteria:

209 (a) The county or municipality's application is
210 approved for funding in accordance with the criteria in subsection
211 (3) of this section;

212 (b) The department determines that the county or
213 municipality does not have sufficient funds available for the
214 purchase of a rural fire truck with the funds authorized in
215 subsection (3) of this section; and



216 (c) The county has received funding for no more than
217 eight (8) rounds from the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance
218 Program.

219 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
220 and after July 1, 2024.

