

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

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.

