

By: Representative James-Jones

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1543

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, IN
 2 DIRECT COLLABORATION WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
 3 TRANSPORTATION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEFLORE COUNTY, TO
 4 CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A
 5 SAFE AND EFFICIENT ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OR SKYBRIDGE FOR
 6 STUDENTS AND VISITORS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AT OR
 7 NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 82 AND SUNFLOWER ROAD
 8 (COUNTY ROAD 507) IN ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED
 9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) The administration of Mississippi Valley
 12 State University, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees of
 13 State Institutions of Higher Learning, and in direct collaboration
 14 with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Board of
 15 Supervisors of Leflore County, shall conduct a study to determine
 16 the feasibility of establishing safe, reliable and cost effective
 17 alternative for a safe and efficient elevated pedestrian crossing
 18 or skybridge for faculty, staff, students and campus visitors of
 19 Mississippi Valley State University at or near the intersection of
 20 U.S. Highway 82 and Sunflower Road (County Road 507) located in
 21 Itta Bena, Leflore County, Mississippi.



22 (2) The commission shall, at a minimum, study and report to
23 the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature the following:

24 (a) The total amount of federal revenue received by the
25 State of Mississippi and the total amount of state funds spent on
26 federal matching funds that can allowably be allocated for the
27 establishment, construction and maintenance of an elevated
28 pedestrian crossing or skybridge within the area designated in
29 subsection (1) of this section;

30 (b) A cost-benefit analysis examining the impact of
31 providing alternative pathways to safely traverse the roadway
32 which allows safe access to and from the university's campus;

33 (c) Examples in Mississippi and/or in other states of
34 pedestrian crosswalks or skybridges in highly traveled areas;

35 (d) Benefits to university goers and to the local
36 community to seamless connect the university with the surrounding
37 community by providing a safe and uninhibited navigation corridor
38 within the area designated in subsection (1) of this section;

39 (e) Previous efforts and key considerations to identify
40 a location and pedestrian crossing alternatives within the area
41 designated in subsection (1) of this section; and

42 (f) Any constraints associated with a proposed
43 pedestrian crossing within the area designated in subsection (1)
44 of this section, including, but not limited to:

45 (i) Plans for future expansion of U.S. Highway 82
46 and/or Sunflower Road (County Road 507);



47 (ii) Current and projected land uses in and around
48 the area;
49 (iii) Existing pedestrian infrastructure in the
50 area; and
51 (iv) Property impacts associated with any proposed
52 U.S. Highway 82 pedestrian crossing.

53 (3) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
54 department, division, board, bureau, committee or agency of the
55 state or any political subdivision thereof, may, at the request of
56 the Transportation Commissioner for the Central District, provide
57 such facilities, assistance, information and data which will
58 enable the study to be properly performed under the authority of
59 this section.

60 The President of Mississippi Valley State and the Executive
61 Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall
62 jointly prepare a report to the Legislature on the results of the
63 study not later than December 15, 2024.

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

