

By: Senator(s) Carter

To: Energy; Government
Structure

SENATE BILL NO. 2283
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 77-1-51 AND 77-1-55, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THE PROVISIONS OF
3 LAW CREATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS
4 POWERS AND DUTIES; TO SPECIFY THE APPLICATION OF THE REPEALER
5 CONTAINED IN SECTION 77-1-51 TO THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SERVICE
6 COMMISSION CHAPTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 77-1-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 77-1-51. * * * This chapter shall stand repealed as of
11 December 31, * * * 2028.

12 **SECTION 2.** Section 77-1-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:

14 77-1-55. (1) The Public Service Commission, with the aid
15 and the assistance of the Public Utilities Staff, shall have the
16 power to monitor, investigate, and seek relief in any appropriate
17 federal forum from all existing or proposed interstate rates,
18 charges, allocations and classifications, and all rules and
19 practices in relation thereto promulgated and prescribed by or for
20 any public utility as defined in Section 77-3-3(d) (i).



21 (2) The Public Service Commission, with the aid and the
22 assistance of the Public Utilities Staff, may seek relief from any
23 proposed or final decision, order, regulation, rule or law that
24 has an impact on any existing or proposed interstate rate, charge,
25 allocation or classification.

26 (3) For the purpose of this section, the Public Service
27 Commission and the Executive Director of the Public Utilities
28 Staff may each enter into professional services contracts with one
29 or more attorneys or consultants from a competent, qualified and
30 independent firm as may be required by the commission or the
31 executive director. Costs associated with the professional
32 service contracts shall not exceed One Million Five Hundred
33 Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) for each agency with respect to
34 each rate regulated affected utility in any twelve-month period.
35 The consultants or counsel shall submit periodically, but no less
36 frequently than once each calendar quarter, to the executive
37 director or the commission, as applicable, for approval of
38 payment, itemized bills detailing the work performed. The
39 executive director or the chairman of the commission, as
40 applicable, shall requisition the applicable public utility to
41 make the requisite payments to such consultants. The commission
42 shall allow the utility to recover both the total costs the
43 utility incurred under this section and the carrying charges for
44 those costs through a rate rider established to recover the costs
45 incurred and carrying charges incurred. Such rider shall include



46 a true-up provision to ensure actual recovery of costs paid or
47 otherwise incurred by the utility.

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49 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after June 30, 2024.

