

By: Representative Steverson

To: Transportation;  
Appropriations E

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1261

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
2 TRANSPORTATION, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OR A  
3 MUNICIPALITY OF THE STATE MAY FORM A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP  
4 FOR A HIGHWAY, ROAD, BRIDGE OR OTHER ASSET IMPROVEMENT BY WHICH  
5 THE DEPARTMENT, POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR MUNICIPALITY MAY  
6 NEGOTIATE FOR PRIVATE FUNDING ASSISTANCE TOWARD A HIGHWAY, ROAD,  
7 BRIDGE OR OTHER ASSET IMPROVEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR NAMING RIGHTS OF  
8 THE SECTION OF HIGHWAY, ROAD, BRIDGE OR OTHER ASSET FOR WHICH THE  
9 PRIVATE FUNDING ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED; TO PROHIBIT THE  
10 COMMISSION FROM APPROVING AND THE DEPARTMENT FROM ENTERING INTO  
11 ANY AGREEMENT WITH AN ENTITY WHOSE PRODUCTS ARE ILLEGAL FOR USE BY  
12 MINORS; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH FUNDS DERIVED FROM  
13 SUCH AGREEMENTS FOR NAMING RIGHTS MAY BE USED; TO CREATE A SPECIAL  
14 FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH FUNDS TO BE  
15 RETAINED AND MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
16 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Department of  
19 Transportation, a political subdivision of the state or a  
20 municipality of the state may form a public-private partnership  
21 for a highway, road, bridge or other asset by which the  
22 department, political subdivision or municipality may negotiate  
23 for private funding assistance toward a highway, road, bridge or  
24 other asset improvement in exchange for naming rights of the  
25 section of highway, road, bridge or other asset improvement for



26 which the private funding assistance was provided, which such  
27 public-private partnership agreements shall be subject to the  
28 approval of the Mississippi Transportation Commission. The  
29 Mississippi Department of Transportation shall adopt rules and  
30 regulations necessary for the department to utilize such  
31 public-private partnerships.

32 (2) The commission shall not approve, nor shall the  
33 department enter into any public-private partnership agreement  
34 with any entity whose products are illegal for participation in or  
35 use by persons eighteen (18) years of age and under.

36 (3) Any funds received by the department from an entity with  
37 whom it has entered a public-private partnership agreement under  
38 the authority of subsection (1) for the purposes specified  
39 therein, shall be retained by the department and deposited into a  
40 special fund managed by the department to be used for capital  
41 improvements to rest areas and visitor centers and welcome centers  
42 throughout the state.

43 (4) (a) There is established in the State Treasury a  
44 special fund for the department for the monies collected under  
45 this section.

46 (b) Unexpended monies remaining in the fund at the end  
47 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and  
48 any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund  
49 shall be deposited into the fund.



50           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after July 1, 2025.

