

By: Representative Janus

To: Transportation; Ways and  
Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 494

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 LIMIT THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TO  
3 PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN GAMING COUNTIES; TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-3,  
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO RESTRICT THE EXPENDITURE OF MONIES IN  
5 THE GAMING COUNTIES BOND SINKING FUND TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST  
6 ON AND PRINCIPAL OF BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
7 PROVIDING FUNDS FOR GAMING COUNTIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; AND  
8 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is  
13 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming  
14 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section  
15 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to  
16 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,  
17 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way  
18 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or  
19 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,  
20 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform  
21 intersection improvements, provide signal retiming, turnbay  
22 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic  
23 modifications, within \* \* \* those counties in this state where  
24 legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any highway,  
25 road, street or bridge that is authorized to be constructed,  
26 reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards established  
27 by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall be  
28 constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand  
29 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the  
30 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the



31 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the  
32 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and  
33 maintenance.

34 (2) The projects authorized in subsection (1) of this  
35 section shall include, but shall not be limited to, highways,  
36 roads, streets and bridges on and along the following locations:

37 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with  
38 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including  
39 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.  
40 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

41 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi  
42 3;

43 (c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

44 (d) Lorraine\_Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

45 (e) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in  
46 Gulfport;

47 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee State  
48 Line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly  
49 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence  
50 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near  
51 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect  
52 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly  
53 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

54 (g) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;

55 (h) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110  
56 to U.S. 49;

57 (i) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the  
58 Tennessee state line;

59 (j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16  
60 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending  
61 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of  
62 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;



63                   (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,  
64 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of  
65 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing  
66 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba county  
67 line; and

68                   (iii) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16  
69 beginning at the Leake/Neshoba county line and extending easterly  
70 to not more than ten (10) miles east of Mississippi 15;

71                   (k) Lorraine\_Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to  
72 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

73                   (l) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82  
74 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;

75                   (m) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.  
76 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including  
77 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north  
78 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to  
79 Interstate Highway 20;

80                   (n) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,  
81 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street in the City of Natchez;

82                   (o) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 90  
83 in the City of Pass Christian;

84                   (p) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing  
85 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point  
86 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603  
87 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

88                   (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and  
89 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near  
90 Picayune;

91                   (r) U.S. 49 from U.S. 61 west to the Mississippi River  
92 bridge;

93                   (s) Subject to the conditions prescribed in subsection  
94 (3) of this section, a central Harrison County connector from I-10



to U.S. 90 in the vicinity of Canal Road to the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; and

(t) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90 to I-10 to be located between the Cowan-Lorraine Road interchange and the I-110 interchange.

(3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by the Department of Economic and Community Development to make available for such project not less than Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00).

(4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and performance of the projects authorized under this section, including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the Mississippi Department of Transportation according to priorities based on volume capacity and traffic congestion in comparative project areas; however, if a project authorized in this section is also included in the four-lane highway program under Section 65-3-97, then all contracts necessary to be let for the completion of the project under this section shall be let not later than the priorities established for the letting of contracts for the project under Section 65-3-97.

(5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

(b) In addition to the funds provided for under paragraph (a) of this subsection, funds for the project described in subsection (2)(s) of this section also may be provided from any



127 available federal, state, county or municipal funds authorized for  
128 such project, including the Economic Development Highway Act.

129 SECTION 2. Section 65-39-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
130 amended as follows:

131 65-39-3. There is created in the State Treasury a special  
132 fund to be designated as the "Gaming Counties Bond Sinking Fund."  
133 Such monies as the Legislature directs or provides to be deposited  
134 into the fund may be expended, upon legislative appropriation,  
135 only to pay the interest on and principal of bonds issued pursuant  
136 to Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33 or to pay the interest on and  
137 principal of notes issued under Section 31-17-127 for the purpose  
138 of providing funds for infrastructure projects under Section  
139 65-39-1 \* \* \*. Unexpended amounts remaining in the sinking fund  
140 at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the State  
141 General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the sinking  
142 fund shall be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund.

143 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
144 and after July 1, 2001.

