

By: Representatives Maples, Hamilton, Pierce To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 548

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-31-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL
3 LOCATE, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A HOSPITALITY
4 STATION AT A CERTAIN LOCATION ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 98 IN GEORGE
5 COUNTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 65-31-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 65-31-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
10 hereby authorized to locate, design, construct, operate, and
11 maintain hospitality stations on trunkline highways at or near
12 points of entry into this state from other states. Subject to the
13 availability of federal, state or local funds, or funds from any
14 other source, the Mississippi Transportation Commission shall
15 locate, design, construct, operate and maintain a hospitality
16 station in George County on or along U.S. Highway 98 approximately
17 eleven (11) miles west of the Mississippi/Alabama state line.

18 In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the commission
19 shall have authority to employ such engineers, architects, skilled
20 and unskilled labor as may be determined necessary by the
21 commission, for the preparation of plans for such hospitality
22 stations and their proper location, design, construction,
23 maintenance, and operation. The commission also may employ
24 full-time security officers, as authorized under Section 65-1-131,
25 and/or may contract for the employment of private security
26 officers, as authorized under Section 65-1-136, to patrol and
27 protect the property of hospitality stations and visitors, patrons
28 and other employees of hospitality stations.



29 (2) Prior to the location of such hospitality stations the
30 commission shall afford the opportunity for a public hearing in
31 the county wherein such hospitality station is to be located for
32 the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the most feasible and
33 advantageous location for such hospitality station, at which
34 hearing all interested persons may appear and present testimony in
35 regard thereto. A notice of such proposed location shall be given
36 in some newspaper published or having general circulation in the
37 county wherein such hospitality station is proposed to be located.
38 Should a public hearing be requested thereon, notice by
39 publication shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the
40 date upon which public hearing is to be held and written notice
41 thereof shall likewise be given, within said time, to the
42 governing authorities of all municipalities within such county and
43 the governing authority of such county.

44 (3) Each hospitality station constructed under the
45 provisions of this chapter shall be maintained and kept in a neat
46 and attractive condition.

47 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2001.

