

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2541

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 4 OF CHAPTER 309, LAWS OF 1966, AS  
2 AMENDED BY CHAPTER 496, LAWS OF 1982, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 576,  
3 LAWS OF 2000, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
4 NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI GAS DISTRICT TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION IN A  
5 CERTAIN AMOUNT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Chapter 309, Laws of 1966, as  
8 amended by Chapter 496, Laws of 1982, as amended by Chapter 576,  
9 Laws of 2000, is amended as follows:

10 Section 4. From and after the effective date of this act,  
11 the powers of the Northeast Mississippi Gas District shall be  
12 vested in and exercised by a board of commissioners consisting of  
13 three (3) residents of the district. The Governor shall appoint  
14 an interim board, the term of which shall expire upon completion  
15 of the construction of the district's natural gas transmission and  
16 distribution system and the election of a successor board as  
17 hereinafter provided. Members of the board shall be entitled to  
18 receive compensation for their services in the amount of Two  
19 Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per month, with any compensation  
20 of less than one (1) month to be prorated for the number of days  
21 served relative to the number of days in the applicable month.  
22 The receipt of the compensation shall not entitle any member of  
23 the board to receive or be eligible for any state employee group  
24 insurance, retirement or other fringe benefits.

25 Promptly upon the commencement of natural gas service by the  
26 district to not less than ten (10) individually billed users, the  
27 commissioners shall give notice to each user of an initial  
28 election to be held at a time not less than thirty (30) days nor



29 more than sixty (60) days from such date. The notice shall state  
30 the time, place, and manner in which the users may vote upon the  
31 selection of the board to terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3)  
32 years by ballot of all users of the district. Such election shall  
33 be held in a manner and according to procedures to be established  
34 by rules and regulations adopted by the board prior to the giving  
35 of notice of such election, and a printed copy of such rules and  
36 regulations shall accompany the notice to be forwarded by regular  
37 mail to the users.

38 Rules and regulations for the conduct of the election shall  
39 provide for a method of nomination of commissioners, notice of  
40 such nominations to be provided to users not less than ten (10)  
41 days prior to the date upon which the election is to be held,  
42 along with a method of balloting by mail as well as personal  
43 attendance at the time and place of election, a method of  
44 balloting by proxy vote, and a method of making additional  
45 nominations by users in addition to any nominations proposed by  
46 the board of commissioners. The time of the election shall be  
47 fixed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on a day of  
48 the week other than Sunday.

49 In this and all succeeding elections, each user of the  
50 district shall have one (1) vote; provided that when a billing is  
51 made to more than one (1) person at a single location, each such  
52 person shall be limited to casting a pro rata share of the one (1)  
53 vote to which the billing location is entitled.

54 Subsequent to the initial election, there shall be held an  
55 election annually on a date and in a manner substantially  
56 conforming to the initial election, except that in each annual  
57 election following the initial election, commissioners shall be  
58 elected to terms of three (3) years.

59 Vacancies in the office of commissioner during the interim  
60 period shall be filled by appointment of the Governor and,



61 following the holding of the initial election, shall be filled for  
62 the unexpired term by the remaining commissioners.

63         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
64 and after its passage.

