

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Highways and
Transportation;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2994

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
2 ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO BE KNOWN AS THE "FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY
3 RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION PROGRAM" TO PURCHASE THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY
4 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY SEGMENTS ON ROUTES THAT
5 ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE EXISTING FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM; TO
6 ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACQUIRED
7 UNDER THIS PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Department of Transportation shall
10 establish a program to be known as the "Four-Lane Right-of-Way
11 Acquisition Program" to purchase rights-of-way for the
12 construction of additional four-lane highway segments on routes
13 that are not designated in Section 65-3-97.

14 (2) Acquisitions of rights-of-way under the program
15 established under this section shall be made along routes
16 projected by the Department of Transportation to have a
17 significant future need for the location of a four-lane highway.
18 The determination by the Department of Transportation shall be
19 based upon public necessity and public safety, present and future
20 economic benefit and commercial value, present and future traffic
21 census and route continuity.

22 (3) In acquiring property under this program the Department
23 of Transportation shall make every reasonable effort to acquire
24 real property under this program expeditiously by negotiation
25 before resorting to acquisition by eminent domain proceedings.

26 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
27 and after July 1, 2002.

