

By: Representative Guice

To: Sel Cmte on Hurricane Recovery; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 222

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE  
 2 KNOWN AS COASTAL COUNTIES ASSISTANCE FUND, FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
 3 PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO HANCOCK, HARRISON AND JACKSON  
 4 COUNTIES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THOSE COUNTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT  
 5 DURING EACH FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2008, THE STATE  
 6 FISCAL OFFICER SHALL TRANSFER INTO THE SPECIAL FUND FROM THE STATE  
 7 GENERAL FUND AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT OF THE SINE DIE  
 8 GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATE ADOPTED FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR; TO  
 9 PROVIDE THAT THE MONIES IN THE SPECIAL FUND SHALL BE APPROPRIATED  
 10 BY THE LEGISLATURE AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG EACH OF THOSE COUNTIES  
 11 AND THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THOSE COUNTIES ON A PRO RATA BASIS BASED  
 12 ON POPULATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
 15 special fund to be known as Coastal Counties Assistance Fund, for  
 16 the purpose of providing additional funds to Hancock, Harrison and  
 17 Jackson Counties and the municipalities in those counties. The  
 18 special fund shall be comprised of the monies transferred into the  
 19 fund under subsection (2) of this section and any other monies  
 20 that may be made available for the fund by the Legislature. All  
 21 income from the investment of funds in the special fund shall be  
 22 credited to the fund, and any monies remaining in the fund at the  
 23 end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund.

24 (2) During each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008,  
 25 the State Fiscal Officer shall transfer into the Coastal Counties  
 26 Assistance Fund from the State General Fund an amount equal to one  
 27 percent (1%) of the general fund revenue estimate adopted for that  
 28 fiscal year by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee as of the  
 29 date of sine die adjournment of the Legislature.

30 (3) For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008,  
 31 the Legislature shall appropriate the funds in the Coastal  
 32 Counties Assistance Fund for the purpose of providing additional



33 funds to Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties and the  
34 municipalities in those counties. The appropriated funds shall be  
35 distributed among each of those counties and the municipalities in  
36 those counties on a pro rata basis, in the proportion that the  
37 population of the county in the areas outside of the  
38 municipalities in the county, or the population of the  
39 municipality, as the case may be, bears to the total population of  
40 Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties, including the  
41 municipalities in those counties. The population of the counties  
42 and municipalities shall be determined according to the most  
43 recent federal decennial census.

44       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2007.

