

By: Representative Banks

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 945

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM PLACING CLOTHING, SHOES OR ANY OTHER OBJECT  
 3 ON A HIGH VOLTAGE OVERHEAD LINE; TO AMEND SECTION 45-15-5,  
 4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM ASSISTING  
 5 ANOTHER PERSON IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
 6 45-15-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES DEFINITIONS FOR  
 7 HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 10 amended as follows:

11 45-15-3. Unless the procedures have been followed as  
 12 provided by Sections 45-15-9 and 45-15-11, Mississippi Code of  
 13 1972, to deter contact with high voltage overhead lines:

14 (a) No person shall, individually or through an agent  
 15 or employee, perform or require any other person to perform any  
 16 function or activity upon any land, building, highway or other  
 17 premises if at any time during the performance of that function or  
 18 activity the person performing the function or activity could be  
 19 reasonably expected to move or be placed within ten (10) feet of  
 20 any high voltage overhead line or if any equipment or part of any



21 tool or material used by the person could be reasonably expected  
22 to move or be placed within ten (10) feet of any high voltage  
23 overhead line during the performance of any function or activity.

24 (b) No person shall, individually or through an agent  
25 or employee, operate or bring any mechanical equipment or hoisting  
26 equipment or any other equipment or part of any tool or material  
27 within ten (10) feet of any high voltage overhead line.

28 (c) No person shall place clothing, shoes or any other  
29 object on any high voltage overhead line.

30 ( \* \* \*d) The provisions of this section shall not  
31 apply to persons lawfully occupying the land where the line is  
32 located and engaged in the regular and ordinary functions and  
33 activities of farming, ranching or other agricultural pursuits.

34 **SECTION 2.** Section 45-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
35 amended as follows:

36 45-15-5. (1) No person shall permit any employee to do any  
37 of the things prohibited in Section 45-15-3.

38 (2) No person shall assist another person to perform any act  
39 prohibited by Section 45-15-3.

40 **SECTION 3.** Section 45-15-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
41 brought forward as follows:

42 45-15-1. The following words and phrases, when used in this  
43 chapter, shall, for the purposes of this chapter, have the  
44 meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except in



45 those instances, if any, where the context clearly indicates a  
46 different meaning:

47 (a) "High voltage" means a voltage in excess of six  
48 hundred (600) volts between conductors or from any conductor to  
49 ground.

50 (b) "Overhead lines" mean all bare or insulated  
51 electrical conductors installed above the ground.

52 (c) "Person" means a natural person, firm,  
53 copartnership, association, corporation or governmental entity.

54 (d) "Authorized person" means:

55 (i) An employee or agent of an electric utility  
56 which generates, transmits or delivers electricity.

57 (ii) An employee or agent of a utility which  
58 provides and whose work relates to communication services or  
59 state, county or municipal agencies which have authorized circuit  
60 construction on or near the poles or structures of a utility.

61 (iii) An employee or agent of an industrial plant  
62 whose work relates to the electrical system of the industrial  
63 plant.

64 (iv) An employee or agent of a cable television or  
65 communication services company or an employee of a contractor of a  
66 cable television or communication services company if specifically  
67 authorized by the owner of the poles to make cable television or  
68 communication services attachments.



69                   (v) An employee or agent of a rail transportation  
70 company whose work relates to the electrical systems of the rail  
71 transportation company.

72                   (vi) An employee or agent of a state, county or  
73 municipal electric utility or agency which has or whose work  
74 relates to overhead electrical lines, circuit construction or  
75 conductors on poles or structures of any type.

76                   (e) "Electric utility" means any person engaged in the  
77 generation, transmission or distribution of electricity.

78                   (f) "Warning sign" means a weather-resistant sign of  
79 not less than seven (7) inches by ten (10) inches reading as  
80 follows: "DANGER-UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT NEARER THAN  
81 10 FEET TO HIGH VOLTAGE OVERHEAD LINES."

82                   **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
83 and after July 1, 2024.

