STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 27, 2013

TO THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1584

I am returning House Bill 1584, "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 51-9-121, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PEARL RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT TO FIX AND COLLECT CHARGES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR ANY SERVICES FURNISHED TO RESIDENTS ON ANY PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA; TO SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE, FOR THE RESIDENTS ON ANY PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA, ANY OF THE SERVICES THAT ARE GENERALLY PROVIDED BY A MUNICIPALITY; TO PROVIDE THAT TO FUND THOSE SERVICES, THE DISTRICT IS AUTHORIZED TO USE THE REVENUES GENERATED FROM LEASE RENTAL PAYMENTS, THE REVENUES GENERATED FROM CHARGES OR ASSESSMENTS ON THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SERVICES, THE REVENUES FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE COUNTIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT, OR ANY COMBINATION OF THOSE REVENUES; TO AMEND SECTION 51-9-175, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE RESERVOIR POLICE OFFICERS TO EXERCISE ANY OF THE POWERS THAT MAY BE EXERCISED BY ANY STATE, MUNICIPAL OR OTHER POLICE OFFICERS IN THIS STATE WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAW OR VIOLATIONS OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS THAT ARE COMMITTED ON THE PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT AND ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT THAT HAS BEEN LEASED OR RENTED TO OTHER PARTIES; TO AUTHORIZE RESERVOIR POLICE OFFICERS TO PATROL THE PUBLIC ROADS AND STREETS LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT AND ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT THAT HAS BEEN LEASED OR RENTED TO OTHER PARTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUNDS GENERATED FROM FINES PAID FOR TRAFFIC TICKETS, CITATIONS OR AFFIDAVITS ISSUED BY RESERVOIR POLICE OFFICERS SHALL BE REMITTED TO THE DISTRICT BY THE COUNTY THAT COLLECTS THE FINES; TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION 51-9-121.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT TO CLEAN ANY LEASED PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND UNDER THE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OF THE DISTRICT, BY THE USE OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OR BY CONTRACT, IF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AFTER A HEARING ADJUDICATES THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY ADJUDICATE THE ACTUAL COST OF CLEANING THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND AND ALSO MAY IMPOSE A PENALTY, BOTH OF WHICH WILL BECOME A CIVIL DEBT AGAINST THE LESSEE OF THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES", without my approval, and assign the following reasons for my veto.

House Bill 1584 authorizes the Board of Directors of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, an agency of the state, to provide municipal services on lands under its jurisdiction funded by revenues from lease rental payments, assessments on recipients of services, contributions by counties that are members of the district and traffic fines.

I am concerned that the bill gives unlimited taxing authority to an unelected board to provide unspecified municipal services in the leasehold areas of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. I am aware there are problems that exist in connection with the operation of the Reservoir project area which must be addressed; however, this bill does not provide solutions to the problems faced by leaseholders and the management of the leasehold property that have evolved since the creation of the water supply district. Accordingly, I am vetoing House Bill 1584.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Bryant

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

3/27/13
5:35 p.m.