

By: Representative Banks

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1350

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MONUMENT
2 COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL
3 RIGHTS MONUMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION, POWERS AND DUTIES
4 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MONUMENT COMMISSION; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSE.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Civil
8 Rights Monument Commission ("commission"). The commission shall
9 consist of five (5) members as follows: two (2) members shall be
10 appointed by the Governor, two (2) members shall be appointed by
11 the Lieutenant Governor, and one (1) member shall be appointed by
12 the Attorney General. Members of the commission shall serve
13 staggered terms as follows: one (1) member appointed by the
14 Governor for a term of one (1) year, one (1) member appointed by
15 the Governor for a term of two (2) years, one (1) member appointed
16 by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of three (3) years, one (1)
17 member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of four (4)
18 years, and the member appointed by the Attorney General for a term
19 of five (5) years. After the terms of the initial members expire,
20 successors shall be chosen by the appropriate appointing authority
21 and shall serve for terms of five (5) years.

22 (2) The initial meeting of the commission shall be called
23 and chaired by the member appointed by the Attorney General, until
24 the commission chooses a chairman from among its members.
25 Thereafter, the commission shall elect a chairman and secretary
26 each year, and the commission may meet at the call of the chairman
27 once each month. Minutes of the meetings of the commission shall

28 be kept and, along with all other records and papers, shall remain
29 in the custody of the secretary of the commission. A majority of
30 the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
31 business. All actions taken or rules and regulations adopted by
32 the commission shall be by resolution duly spread upon its
33 minutes, showing yea and nay votes of each member present. The
34 signature of the chairman and secretary, pursuant to a duly
35 adopted resolution, shall be binding upon the commission.

36 (3) The members of the commission shall receive per diem
37 compensation in the amount authorized under Section 25-3-69 for
38 each day or portion thereof spent in the performance of the duties
39 of the commission and shall be entitled to reimbursement for
40 travel expenses while on commission business as authorized under
41 Section 25-3-41. Commission members shall be limited to
42 reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem compensation
43 authorized herein for no more than twelve (12) meetings per year.

44 (4) The commission shall have continuing oversight
45 responsibility over all activities pertaining to the Mississippi
46 Civil Rights Monument.

47 (5) The commission shall continue in existence under the
48 provisions of this act after the design, construction and
49 dedication of the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument for a period
50 of one (1) year after the date on which the monument is officially
51 dedicated.

52 (6) When the commission ceases to exist, all records of the
53 commission shall become the property of the Mississippi Department
54 of Archives and History.

55 SECTION 2. The commission shall cause to be constructed and
56 maintained the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument when adequate
57 funds for the construction thereof are deposited in the
58 Mississippi Civil Rights Monument Trust Fund herein created. Such
59 monument shall be in honor of persons who have contributed to the
60 advancement of civil rights in Mississippi and the United States.

61 SECTION 3. The commission shall:

62 (a) Plan and provide for the design, construction and
63 dedication of the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument to be located
64 on the grounds of the State Capitol. The actual design and site

65 of the monument shall be selected with the approval of the
66 Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

67 (b) Solicit private monetary donations for deposit into
68 the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument Trust Fund. The commission
69 also may solicit public funds, including appropriations from the
70 Legislature, for deposit into the Mississippi Civil Rights
71 Monument Trust Fund.

72 (c) Report to the Legislature by November 15 of each
73 year on the progress of such monument. In addition to such
74 report, the commission shall submit an annual report on its
75 activities no later than November of each year to the Public
76 Buildings, Grounds and Lands Committee of the Mississippi House of
77 Representatives and the Public Property Committee of the
78 Mississippi Senate.

79 SECTION 4. The commission may accept gifts, grants and
80 donations from individuals, businesses, organizations,
81 corporations, associations and other legal entities, as well as
82 the State of Mississippi and any agency, department, institution,
83 instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, to be deposited
84 in the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument Trust Fund which is
85 created in the State Treasury. The State Treasurer shall invest
86 all monies in the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument Trust Fund and
87 any interest earned shall be deposited into the fund. All funds
88 deposited in the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument Trust Fund
89 shall be used exclusively for the purpose of designing,
90 constructing and maintaining the Mississippi Civil Rights
91 Monument. Any monies remaining unexpended or unencumbered in the
92 fund upon completion of the monument shall revert to the
93 Mississippi Department of Archives and History for maintenance of
94 the Mississippi Civil Rights Monument.

95 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
96 and after July 1, 1999.