

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Rules; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2132

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 39-5-91, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND MILEAGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 39-5-91, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 39-5-91. (1) There is hereby created a Mississippi Civil
9 War Battlefield Commission consisting of the following fifteen
10 (15) members:

11 (a) Nine (9) members appointed by the Governor with
12 three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1, 1998,
13 three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2000,
14 and three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1,
15 2002;

16 (b) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
17 for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002;

18 (c) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the
19 Mississippi House of Representatives for an initial term
20 concluding on March 1, 2002;

21 (d) One (1) member appointed by the Jackson Civil War
22 Roundtable for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002; and

23 (e) Three (3) members appointed by the Board of
24 Trustees of the Department of Archives and History for an initial
25 term concluding on March 1, 2002.

26 After the initial terms, all terms shall be for six (6)
27 years. An appointment to fill a vacancy which arises for reasons

28 other than by expiration of a term of office shall be made by the
29 respective appointing authority for the unexpired term only.

30 (2) The commission shall elect from its membership a
31 chairman who shall preside over meetings and a vice-chairman who
32 shall preside in the absence of the chairman or when the chairman
33 shall be excused.

34 (3) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
35 governing times and places for meetings. A majority of members of
36 the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
37 any business. The commission shall meet at least quarterly. The
38 commission may form subcommittees to address specific issues
39 concerning preservation and enhancement of Civil War sites and
40 structures. The commission may adopt other procedures necessary
41 to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

42 (4) The members of the commission shall receive no
43 compensation for their services, but shall receive reimbursement
44 for actual expenses and mileage incurred in attending necessary
45 business of the commission, as authorized by law.

46 (5) Principal staff support for the commission shall be
47 provided by the Department of Archives and History. Other
48 agencies shall assist when requested by the commission.

49 (6) The commission shall have the following duties:

50 (a) Identify and prioritize for protecting
51 Mississippi's Civil War sites and structures;

52 (b) Identify, analyze and enhance preservation
53 opportunities for Mississippi's Civil War sites and structures;

54 (c) Review existing local, state and federal plans,
55 programs and policies related to Mississippi's Civil War sites and
56 structures;

57 (d) Develop relationships with federal and local
58 officials and private conservation organizations which facilitate
59 protection and enhancement of Civil War sites and structures;

60 (e) Coordinate Mississippi's participation with the
61 federal government and private foundations to secure support and
62 financial resources for the protection and enhancement of Civil
63 War sites and structures;

64 (f) Advise state agencies on matters relating to Civil

65 War sites and structures; and

66 (g) Perform any other such duties or actions in an
67 effort to advance Civil War history in Mississippi.

68 (7) The commission shall submit to the Governor an annual
69 report by December 1 of each year which shall include
70 recommendations for any legislative, administrative or other
71 changes the commission deems necessary to further Civil War
72 history in Mississippi.

73 (8) State agencies shall consider the impact of their
74 actions on Civil War sites and structures as identified by the
75 commission whenever permitting, planning, funding or undertaking
76 any construction projects.

77 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
78 and after July 1, 1999.