

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Economic Dev, Tourism
and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2768

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL
2 HERITAGE PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
3 DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
4 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY SHALL STUDY THE
5 IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE
6 COUNTIES OF ADAMS, CLAIBORNE, HINDS, JEFFERSON, MADISON, RANKIN,
7 WARREN AND WILKINSON; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
8 AND HISTORY SHALL SUBMIT A PLAN REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
9 SUCH DISTRICT TO THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE
10 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF A
11 TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH PLAN; TO GRANT THE
12 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY CERTAIN POWERS WITH
13 REGARD TO ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
14 ARCHIVES AND HISTORY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER
15 AREAS IN THIS STATE WHERE SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND
16 VIABLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE
17 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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19 SECTION 1. (1) The purpose of this act is to enact a pilot
20 program to develop a regional cultural heritage district program
21 which shall be administered and staffed by the Mississippi
22 Department of Archives and History.

23 (2) The regional cultural heritage district pilot program
24 shall include Adams, Claiborne, Hinds, Jefferson, Madison, Rankin,
25 Warren and Wilkinson Counties.

26 SECTION 2. Within twelve (12) months after the effective
27 date of this act, the Mississippi Department of Archives and
28 History shall develop and submit to the Legislature a plan that:

29 (a) Determines the need for a regional cultural
30 heritage district that includes the counties listed in Section
31 1(2) of this act;

32 (b) Specifies the goals and objectives for such
33 regional cultural heritage district;

34 (c) Provides an inventory of the significant cultural

35 and historic resources in such regional cultural heritage
36 district;

37 (d) Identifies legal, regulatory and other constraints
38 which must be overcome before meaningful cultural and historic
39 development can occur;

40 (e) Describes current and potential educational,
41 interpretative and recreational programs and projects concerning
42 such regional cultural heritage district;

43 (f) Provides market research to document the potential
44 regional tourism and economic development opportunities resulting
45 from the development of such regional cultural heritage district;

46 (g) Provides an economic assessment of the long- and
47 short-term costs and benefits related to the implementation of the
48 action plan, including an identification of expected sources of
49 funding;

50 (h) Describes the specific cost effective techniques or
51 methods for the long-term preservation and documentation of the
52 significant cultural and historic resources in such regional
53 cultural heritage district;

54 (i) Describes the public and private organizational
55 structure to be utilized for planning, development and management
56 of such regional cultural heritage district; and

57 (j) Provides strategies and a schedule for the
58 planning, development and management of such regional cultural
59 heritage district.

60 SECTION 3. For the purpose of reviewing the development of
61 the plan for the regional cultural heritage district, there shall
62 be a task force that includes one (1) representative appointed by
63 each of the following:

64 (a) The boards of supervisors of Adams, Claiborne,
65 Hinds, Jefferson, Madison, Rankin, Warren and Wilkinson Counties;

66 (b) The mayors of each municipality in the proposed
67 regional cultural heritage district;

- 68 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of
69 Archives and History;
- 70 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of
71 Economic and Community Development;
- 72 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of
73 Transportation;
- 74 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of
75 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks;
- 76 (g) The President of Alcorn State University;
- 77 (h) The President of Jackson State University;
- 78 (i) The Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission;
- 79 (j) The Chairman of the Mississippi River Parkway
80 Commission;
- 81 (k) The Regional Superintendent of the U.S. Department
82 of Interior, National Park Service;
- 83 (l) Other representatives as the Department of Archives
84 and History deem appropriate.

85 SECTION 4. For purposes of this act, the Mississippi
86 Department of Archives and History shall be authorized:

- 87 (a) To advocate, coordinate, develop, plan, promote and
88 research cultural and historical attractions, events, properties
89 and services in the proposed regional cultural heritage district;
- 90 (b) To enter into such contracts and cooperative
91 agreements with the local, state and federal government with
92 agencies of such governments, with private individuals, and with
93 corporations, associations and other organizations, as the
94 department may deem necessary or convenient; and
- 95 (c) To provide grants to fund the cost of construction,
96 preservation, restoration, renovation, repair, investigation,
97 promotion or interpretation of cultural and historic attractions,
98 events, properties and services within the proposed regional
99 cultural heritage district.

100 SECTION 5. In addition to the duties and powers given to the

101 Department of Archives and History in the foregoing provisions of
102 this act, the department shall survey cultural and historical
103 attractions, events, properties and services within Coahoma,
104 Bolivar, Sunflower and Washington Counties and within other
105 identifiable geographic regions throughout this state to determine
106 other areas in which it would be viable and appropriate to
107 establish regional cultural heritage districts similar to the
108 pilot district authorized in this act. The department shall
109 submit a report of its findings to the Legislature on or before
110 December 1, 2000, by filing a report thereon with the Secretary of
111 the Mississippi Senate, the Clerk of the Mississippi House of
112 Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Economic Development,
113 Tourism and Parks Committee and the Chairman of the House
114 Appropriations Committee.

115 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
116 and after July 1, 1999.