

By: Senator(s) Harden, Posey, Dearing,
Horhn, Jackson

To: Economic Dev, Tourism
and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2768
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL
2 HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL STUDY
5 THE 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 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CERTAIN POWERS
13 WITH REGARD TO ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE
15 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS IN THIS STATE WHERE
16 SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND VIABLE; AND FOR RELATED
17 PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
18 MISSISSIPPI:

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20 SECTION 1. (1) The purpose of this act is to enact a pilot
21 program to develop a regional cultural heritage tourism district
22 program which shall be administered and staffed by the Department
23 of Economic and Community Development.

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

27 SECTION 2. Within twelve (12) months after the effective
28 date of this act, the Department of Economic and Community
29 Development shall develop and submit to the Legislature a plan
30 that:

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

34 (b) Specifies the goals and objectives for such

35 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

36 (c) Provides an inventory of the significant cultural
37 and historic resources in such regional cultural heritage tourism
38 district;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

68 (b) The mayors of each municipality in the proposed
69 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

70 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of
71 Archives and History;

72 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of
73 Economic and Community Development;

74 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of
75 Transportation;

76 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of
77 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks;

78 (g) The President of Alcorn State University;

79 (h) The President of Jackson State University;

80 (i) The Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission;

81 (j) The Chairman of the Mississippi River Parkway
82 Commission;

83 (k) The Regional Superintendent of the U.S. Department
84 of Interior, National Park Service;

85 (l) Other representatives as the Department of Economic
86 and Community Development deem appropriate.

87 SECTION 4. For purposes of this act, the Department of
88 Economic and Community Development shall be authorized:

89 (a) To advocate, coordinate, develop, plan, promote and
90 research cultural and historical attractions, events, properties
91 and services in the proposed regional cultural heritage tourism
92 district;

93 (b) To enter into such contracts and cooperative
94 agreements with the local, state and federal government with
95 agencies of such governments, with private individuals, and with
96 corporations, associations and other organizations, as the
97 department may deem necessary or convenient; and

98 (c) To provide grants to fund the cost of construction,
99 preservation, restoration, renovation, repair, investigation,
100 promotion or interpretation of cultural and historic attractions,

101 events, properties and services within the proposed regional
102 cultural heritage tourism district.

103 SECTION 5. In addition to the duties and powers given to the
104 Department of Economic and Community Development in the foregoing
105 provisions of this act, the department shall survey cultural and
106 historical attractions, events, properties and services within
107 other identifiable geographic regions throughout this state to
108 determine other areas in which it would be viable and appropriate
109 to establish regional cultural heritage tourism districts similar
110 to the pilot district authorized in this act. The department
111 shall submit a report of its findings to the Legislature on or
112 before December 1, 2000, by filing a report thereon with the
113 Secretary of the Mississippi Senate, the Clerk of the Mississippi
114 House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Economic
115 Development, Tourism and Parks Committee and the Chairman of the
116 House Appropriations Committee.

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