

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Universities and
Colleges; Economic
Dev, Tourism and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2884

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE REGIONAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM AT THE
2 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO CERTAIN SUB-STATE
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC PROJECTS
4 THAT WILL AUGMENT THE OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES OF THE LONG RANGE
5 STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF
6 LONG RANGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OF THE UNIVERSITY
7 RESEARCH CENTER PURSUANT TO THE STATEWIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
8 PLANNING ACT OF 1987; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH
9 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) There is created within the University
12 Research Center the Regional Initiatives Program which shall
13 provide grants to sub-state economic development organizations or
14 an aggregate of such organization to carry out specific projects
15 that will augment the objectives and strategies of the long range
16 state economic development action plan prepared by the Bureau of
17 Long Range Economic Development Planning of the University
18 Research Center pursuant to the Statewide Economic Development and
19 Planning Act of 1987.

20 (2) Applicants for grants shall make application to the
21 Bureau for Comprehensive Long Range Economic Development Planning
22 of University Research Center. The application shall specify the
23 project for which a grant is sought and explain how the project
24 will augment the objectives and strategies of the long range state
25 economic development action plan. Any applicant for a grant under
26 the program may request not more that seventy-five percent (75%)
27 of the total cost of the project. The applicant shall provide the
28 remainder of the cost of the project, one-half (1/2) of which may
29 be in-kind funding.

30 (3) The Bureau for Comprehensive Long Range Economic
31 Development Planning of University Research Center shall have the
32 authority to approve or disapprove grant applications; however, no
33 grant application shall be approved by the bureau unless the
34 bureau determines that the project will have a positive economic
35 impact on at least an entire county.

36 (4) The Bureau for Comprehensive Long Range Economic
37 Development Planning of the University Research Center may adopt
38 any rules and regulations it considers necessary to carry out the
39 provisions of this act.

40 (5) No funds provided to fund the program shall be utilized
41 to pay operating costs of the program.

42 (6) As used in this section "sub-state economic development
43 organizations" shall mean economic development organizations such
44 as local chambers of commerce, local economic development
45 authorities, planning and development districts, multi-county
46 organizations funded by local governing authorities and the
47 federal government, or other organizations deemed appropriate by
48 the Bureau for Comprehensive Long Range Economic Development
49 Planning of University Research Center.

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