

By: Senator(s) Jordan (18th)

To: Economic Dev, Tourism
and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2890
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-1-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO
3 EMPLOY LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND APPRAISERS NECESSARY FOR
4 THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANY REAL ESTATE UNDER THE OWNERSHIP
5 OR CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT STATE PROMOTION
6 CONTRACTS AND SUCH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS SHALL BE
7 SUBJECT TO PUBLIC BID PROCEDURES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 57-1-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 57-1-55. (1) The Department of Economic and Community
12 Development shall have the following general powers and duties:
13 To develop and manage programs which enhance the climate for
14 economic growth through assistance to private sector businesses,
15 local communities and individuals, and through an extensive
16 national and international marketing effort.

17 (2) The Department of Economic and Community Development
18 shall have the following general powers and duties with respect to
19 economic development:

20 (a) To plan, supervise and direct an active program of
21 solicitation of industries to locate within the state;

22 (b) To prepare, maintain and disseminate information
23 which is needed by companies in evaluating site locations;

24 (c) To consult with, advise and assist prospective
25 industries wishing to locate within the state;

26 (d) To encourage new or expanding industries, which
27 will add to the economy, to locate within the state;

28 (e) To maintain a coordinated liaison function with

29 other development groups, including state and federal agencies,
30 and planning and development districts, utility companies,
31 chambers of commerce and railroads;

32 (f) To assist communities and counties within the state
33 in preparation for economic growth;

34 (g) To assist new and existing business and industry
35 and encourage their development and expansion;

36 (h) To plan and conduct a nationwide advertising
37 program promoting the state to prospective industry. Any contract
38 entered into for such purposes shall be advertised, bid and
39 accepted in accordance with the same procedure as prescribed for
40 the advertisement and acceptance of bids for the purchase of
41 commodities and contracts for public purchases under Chapter 7,
42 Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972;

43 (i) To work with economic development agencies of the
44 federal government in areas of industrial development and provide
45 information to industrial prospects regarding the availability of
46 federal funds and assistance;

47 (j) To work with the Department of Corrections,
48 pursuant to the provisions of Section 47-5-501 et seq., in
49 identifying and evaluating acceptable industries and businesses
50 and in acting as an agent of the Department of Corrections by
51 communicating with such concerns and aggressively soliciting their
52 participation in the Correctional Industries Work Program;

53 (k) To perform related work as required;

54 (l) To disseminate information about financial and
55 other programs of the Department of Economic and Community
56 Development that will assist in the creation or expansion of
57 industries processing wood products in this state;

58 (m) To market processed and raw agricultural products
59 domestically and abroad; * * *

60 (n) To aid in the establishment of business incubation
61 centers by private business interests, not for profit

62 corporations, and/or governmental entities. The department may
63 provide funds by contract for the establishment of business
64 incubation centers and may contract for space in which business
65 incubation centers will be located. Business incubation centers
66 are defined as facilities and support services that encourage the
67 establishment of successful small businesses by providing a
68 short-term sheltered environment. The department may solicit and
69 accept grants and other financial aid or support from private or
70 public sources to aid in the development of business incubation
71 centers. In addition, advice and assistance to established
72 business incubation centers may be provided by the department; and
73 (o) To employ licensed real estate brokers and
74 appraisers necessary for the industrial development of any real
75 estate under the ownership or control of the Department of
76 Economic and Community Development. Any contract entered into for
77 such purposes shall be advertised, bid and accepted in accordance
78 with the same procedure as prescribed for the advertisement and
79 acceptance of bids for the purchase of commodities and contracts
80 for public purchases under Chapter 7, Title 31, Mississippi Code
81 of 1972.

82 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after its passage.