

By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Economic Dev, Tourism
and Parks;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2961

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIVABLE COMMUNITIES
2 INVESTMENT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
3 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO COUNTIES
4 AND MUNICIPALITIES UNDER SUCH PROGRAM TO FUND OR ASSIST IN FUNDING
5 CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
6 AND SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SUCH COMMUNITIES; TO PROVIDE
7 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND
8 FROM WHICH GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE MADE; AND FOR
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Local Governments
12 Livable Communities Investment Program to be administered by the
13 Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose
14 of making grants to counties and municipalities to fund or assist
15 in funding infrastructure investments that improve the quality of
16 life and support economic development in such communities.

17 (2) For purposes of this act, "infrastructure investments"
18 include any of the following:

19 (a) Renovation and repair of public parks and
20 recreational facilities;

21 (b) Construction of new parks and recreational
22 facilities at local public schools;

23 (c) Renovation of public school buildings to support
24 expanded community use while restricting access to classrooms and
25 administrative offices;

26 (d) Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any
27 building to be utilized as a community family resource center; or

28 (e) Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any
29 building to be utilized as a community youth offender facility.

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31 SECTION 2. (1) A county or an incorporated municipality may
32 apply to the Department of Economic and Community Development for
33 a grant under the Local Governments Livable Communities Investment
34 Program.

35 (2) The Department of Economic and Community Development
36 shall establish the grant program authorized pursuant to this act
37 and grants may be made under this program in amounts not to exceed
38 one hundred percent (100%) of eligible project costs as
39 established by the Department of Economic and Community
40 Development. The Department of Economic and Community Development
41 shall establish a formula for the distribution of available grant
42 money under this program that takes into account the per capita
43 income of the county or incorporated municipality and is weighted
44 to target counties and municipalities where the per capita income
45 is below the state average.

46 (3) Each applicant for a grant shall document the need for
47 the proposed project and the benefits to the community and local
48 economic development efforts. Each applicant shall commit to a
49 plan for the long-range maintenance of the facility funded by
50 grants from this program that is considered satisfactory by the
51 Department of Economic and Community Development.

52 (4) All grants shall be funded from the Local Governments
53 Livable Communities Investment Fund created in Section 3 of this
54 act.

55 SECTION 3. (1) There is created a special fund in the State
56 Treasury to be designated the "Local Governments Livable
57 Communities Investment Fund," which shall consist of such money as
58 may be appropriated by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts
59 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse
60 into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in
61 the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund. Money in
62 the fund shall be used or expended by the Department of Economic
63 and Community Development for the purposes authorized in this act.

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