

By: Senator(s) Bryan, Harden

To: Economic Dev, Tourism  
and Parks;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2961  
(As Passed the Senate)

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 MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE UNDER  
5 SUCH PROGRAM TO FUND OR ASSIST IN FUNDING CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE  
6 INVESTMENTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND SUPPORT ECONOMIC  
7 DEVELOPMENT IN SUCH COMMUNITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION  
8 OF THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS  
9 BE PROVIDED IN ORDER FOR A GRANT TO BE ISSUED; TO CREATE A SPECIAL  
10 FUND FROM WHICH GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE MADE; AND  
11 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

22 (a) Renovation and repair of public parks and  
23 recreational facilities;

24 (b) Construction of new parks and recreational  
25 facilities;

26 (c) Renovation of public school buildings to support  
27 expanded community use while restricting access to classrooms and  
28 administrative offices; and

29 (d) Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any  
30 building to be utilized as a community family resource center.

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 seventy-five percent (75%) 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) The grants authorized under this program shall be issued  
47 only if the private sector or local or federal government provides  
48 matching funds in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the  
49 amount of the eligible project costs as established by the  
50 Department of Economic and Community Development. The matching  
51 funds required pursuant to this subsection may be provided in the  
52 form of cash or in-kind contributions or any combination of cash  
53 or in-kind contributions.

54        (4) Each applicant for a grant shall document the need for  
55 the proposed project and the benefits to the community and local  
56 economic development efforts. Each applicant shall commit to a  
57 plan for the long-range maintenance of the facility funded by  
58 grants from this program that is considered satisfactory by the  
59 Department of Economic and Community Development.

60        (5) All grants shall be funded from the Local Governments  
61 Livable Communities Investment Fund created in Section 3 of this  
62 act.

63        SECTION 3. There is created a special fund in the State

64 Treasury to be designated the "Local Governments Livable  
65 Communities Investment Fund," which shall consist of such money as  
66 may be appropriated by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts  
67 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse  
68 into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in  
69 the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund. Money in  
70 the fund shall be used or expended by the Department of Economic  
71 and Community Development for the purposes authorized in this act.

72 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 and after July 1, 1999.