

**\*\*\*Pending\*\*\***

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill NO. 2884**

**By Representative(s) Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

9           SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Regional Initiatives  
10 Program within the University Research Center as created by  
11 Section 37-141-1 et seq.

12           (2) The program shall provide financial assistance to  
13 counties through grants to substate economic development  
14 organizations or an aggregate of such organizations to carry out  
15 specific projects that will augment the objectives and strategies  
16 of the statewide economic development plan in accordance with the  
17 Statewide Planning Act of 1987.

18           (3) Counties may designate substate economic development  
19 organizations to include but not limited to economic development  
20 organizations such as local chambers of commerce, local economic  
21 development authorities, planning and development districts,  
22 multicounty organizations funded by local governing authorities  
23 and the federal government or other organization deemed  
24 appropriate.

25           SECTION 2. (1) Applications for financial assistance shall  
26 be made to the University Research Center.

27           (2) Applicants may request up to seventy-five percent (75%)  
28 of the total projects cost. The applicant shall provide at least  
29 twenty-five percent (25%) of the total cost, twelve and one-half

30 percent (12-1/2%) of which may be in in-kind funding.

31 SECTION 3. (1) No request for funds shall be granted unless  
32 the project will have a positive economic impact on at east an  
33 entire county.

34 (2) No funding provided by the University Research Center  
35 shall be used to fund operating costs.

36 SECTION 4. The University Research Center shall develop  
37 rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of  
38 this act.

39 SECTION 5. Section 37-141-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
40 amended as follows:

41 37-141-7. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the  
42 Legislature that the functions of the center shall include, but  
43 not be limited to, the following:

44 (a) Undertaking selected applied research projects with  
45 a permanent research staff, augmented by specialists from  
46 universities and colleges, government agencies and private firms,  
47 assisted by graduate students.

48 (b) Relating, when applicable, public service-related  
49 research and technical assistance activities at all state  
50 universities to the overall statewide economic development plan.

51 (c) Coordinating economic development related  
52 activities among all state universities.

53 (d) Providing a computer facility for use by all  
54 educational institutions and government agencies.

55 (e) Maintaining current information on research  
56 projects in the state; on scientific and research personnel; on  
57 research expenditures and sources of funds; on research programs  
58 of agencies and institutions outside the state which bear upon  
59 Mississippi development; publishing annually a catalogue of this  
60 information; and otherwise functioning as a research clearinghouse  
61 for the State of Mississippi.

62 (f) Developing a list of priority research projects  
63 that would have significant contribution to advancement of  
64 economic development efforts in the state.

65 (g) Coordinating with universities and other entities  
66 in the state to promote completion of the priority economic  
67 development related research projects with economic development  
68 potential and advising and assisting in the securing of needed  
69 research funding.

70 (h) Contracting with universities and other entities to  
71 effect needed priority economic development related research  
72 projects.

73 (i) Providing printing and data processing support to  
74 the Department of Economic Development.

75 (j) Identifying all federal funds that flow into  
76 Mississippi for any and all purposes, making comparisons with  
77 other states and preparing appropriate analyses to identify  
78 sources of federal funds where potential exists for attracting and  
79 obtaining larger amounts of federal funds for the state.

80 (k) Develop a system whereby economic development  
81 related research results can be disseminated to public and private  
82 entities for the purpose of enhancing economic development  
83 efforts, particularly at the local level.

84 (l) Assisting institutions, organizations and firms in  
85 identifying and obtaining research funds and other grants from  
86 public and private sources.

87 (m) Developing an econometric model of Mississippi  
88 designed to forecast various sectors of the Mississippi economy.

89 (n) Supporting and utilizing the Mississippi Automated  
90 Resource Information System (MARIS) to accomplish its objectives  
91 of gathering, maintaining and disseminating information and  
92 providing research assistance.

93 (o) Performing other duties and responsibilities as

94 assigned by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

95 (p) Carrying out the provisions of Sections 1 through 4  
96 of Senate Bill No. 2884, 1999 Regular Session.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE REGIONAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM WITHIN THE  
2 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF THE  
3 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING AND THE CRITERIA  
4 FOR FUNDING OF PROJECTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF RULES  
5 AND REGULATIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-141-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
6 ANNOTATED OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.