

By: Moak

To: Public Buildings,
Grounds and Lands;
AppropriationsHOUSE BILL NO. 1373
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO
3 PROVIDE FOR, BY TRANSFER OR SELL, CERTAIN LANDS OWNED BY THE
4 DEPARTMENT TO THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; TO
5 CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; TO AMEND
6 SECTION 39-11-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO;
7 TO AMEND SECTION 39-11-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY
8 THERETO AND TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE CENTER, MONIES IN
9 WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE
10 CENTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. Section 49-4-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:[HS1]

14 49-4-9. Effective July 1, 1979, the Department of Wildlife,
15 Fisheries and Parks shall have the following powers and duties:

16 (a) To formulate the policy of the department regarding
17 wildlife and fisheries within the jurisdiction of the department;

18 (b) To apply for, receive and expend any federal or
19 state funds or contributions, gifts, devises, bequests or funds
20 from any other source;

21 (c) To commission or conduct studies designed to
22 determine alternative methods of managing and conserving the
23 wildlife and fisheries resources of this state in a manner to
24 insure efficiency and sustained productivity;

25 (d) To receive the advice and counsel of the advisory
26 committees created for the Division of Parks and Recreation and
27 the Division of Wildlife and Fisheries; * * *

28 (e) To donate, transfer or sell lands owned by the
29 department in the City of Jackson to the Mississippi Arts and
30 Entertainment Center created in Section 2 of this act; and

31 (f) To discharge such other duties, responsibilities
32 and powers as are necessary to implement the provisions of this
33 chapter.

34 SECTION 2. (1) There is created the Mississippi Arts and
35 Entertainment Center located in Jackson, Mississippi. The purpose
36 of the center shall be to provide an educational, entertaining and
37 interactive facility to illustrate the unique culture of the State
38 of Mississippi; to illustrate the outstanding contributions of
39 Mississippians to the arts and the field of entertainment; and to
40 provide family-oriented attractions in the delivery of an
41 educational experience to citizens of, and visitors to,
42 Mississippi.

43 (2) The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center shall
44 consist of a conference center, a performing arts theater, an
45 amphitheater and an artists' village. The center shall conduct
46 ongoing events such as induction into an arts and entertainment
47 hall of fame, seminars, workshops and demonstrations by guest
48 artists.

49 (3) For the construction, operation and support of the
50 center, the center may receive contributions, donations of land or
51 other property, gifts, bequests of money, other forms of financial
52 assistance and property, equipment, materials or manpower from
53 persons, foundations, trust funds, corporations, organizations and
54 other sources, public or private, to be expended and utilized in
55 carrying out the mission of the center.

56 (4) All expenditures for the center shall be paid by the
57 State Treasurer on warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer,
58 and he shall issue his warrants upon requisition signed by the
59 director of the center.

60 SECTION 3. Section 39-11-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:[HS2]

62 39-11-7. The duties and objectives of the center shall be:

63 (a) To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the

64 study and presentation of the performing, visual, and literary
65 arts and public interest and participation therein;

66 (b) To encourage participation in, appreciation of, and
67 education in the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations
68 of persons in all parts of the state;

69 (c) To take such steps as may be necessary and
70 appropriate, to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage
71 of Mississippi, to expand the state's cultural resources, and to
72 promote the use of art in the state government's activities and
73 facilities; * * *

74 (d) To encourage excellence and assist freedom of
75 artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts; and

76 (e) To administer the Mississippi Arts and
77 Entertainment Center and to acquire land and property in order to
78 construct and administer the center.

79 SECTION 4. Section 39-11-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
80 amended as follows:[HS3]

81 39-11-9. (1) The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center
82 is authorized and empowered to hold public hearings, to enter into
83 contracts within the limit of funds available therefor, with
84 individuals, organizations and institutions for services
85 furthering the objectives of the commission's programs; to enter
86 into contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with
87 local and regional associations for cooperative endeavors
88 furthering the objectives of the center's programs; to accept
89 gifts, contributions and bequests of unrestricted funds from
90 individuals, foundations, corporations and other organizations or
91 institutions for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the
92 center's programs; to make and sign any agreements and to do and
93 perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out the purposes
94 of this chapter. The center may request and shall receive from
95 any department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of
96 the state such assistance and data as will enable it properly to

97 carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

98 * * *

99 (2) Any monies made available by public or private transfers
100 of property, public or private donations or bequests, public or
101 private foundation grants for the benefit of the Mississippi Arts
102 and Entertainment Center shall be deposited into the Mississippi
103 Fund for the Arts and Entertainment Center, a special fund which
104 is created in the State Treasury. All funds deposited in this
105 fund shall be used exclusively for the construction and
106 administration of the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center.
107 Unexpended amounts remaining in the special fund at the end of a
108 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
109 interest earned on amounts in the special fund shall be deposited
110 to the credit of the special fund.

111 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
112 and after July 1, 2000.