

By: Horhn

To: Economic Dev, Tourism
and Parks;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3181

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL
 2 HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
 3 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT
 4 THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL STUDY
 5 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE
 6 COUNTIES OF ADAMS, CLAIBORNE, HINDS, JEFFERSON, MADISON, RANKIN,
 7 WARREN AND WILKINSON; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
 8 AND HISTORY SHALL SUBMIT A PLAN REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
 9 SUCH DISTRICT TO THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE
 10 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF A
 11 TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH PLAN; TO GRANT THE
 12 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CERTAIN POWERS
 13 WITH REGARD TO ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THE
 14 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE
 15 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS IN THIS STATE WHERE
 16 SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND VIABLE; AND FOR RELATED
 17 PURPOSES.

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

19 SECTION 1. (1) The purpose of this act is to enact a pilot
 20 program to develop a regional cultural heritage tourism district
 21 program which shall be administered and staffed by the Department
 22 of Economic and Community Development.

23 (2) The regional cultural heritage tourism district pilot
 24 program shall include Adams, Claiborne, Hinds, Jefferson, Madison,
 25 Rankin, Warren and Wilkinson Counties.

26 SECTION 2. Within twelve (12) months after the effective
 27 date of this act, the Department of Economic and Community
 28 Development shall develop and submit to the Legislature a plan
 29 that:

30 (a) Determines the need for a regional cultural
 31 heritage tourism district that includes the counties listed in
 32 Section 1(2) of this act;

33 (b) Specifies the goals and objectives for such

34 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

35 (c) Provides an inventory of the significant cultural
36 and historic resources in such regional cultural heritage tourism
37 district;

38 (d) Identifies legal, regulatory and other constraints
39 which must be overcome before meaningful cultural and historic
40 development can occur;

41 (e) Describes current and potential educational,
42 interpretative and recreational programs and projects concerning
43 such regional cultural heritage tourism district;

44 (f) Provides market research to document the potential
45 regional tourism and economic development opportunities resulting
46 from the development of such regional cultural heritage tourism
47 district;

48 (g) Provides an economic assessment of the long- and
49 short-term costs and benefits related to the implementation of the
50 plan, including an identification of expected sources of funding;

51 (h) Describes the specific cost effective techniques or
52 methods for the long-term preservation and documentation of the
53 significant cultural and historic resources in such regional
54 cultural heritage tourism district;

55 (i) Describes the public and private organizational
56 structure to be utilized for planning, development and management
57 of such regional cultural heritage tourism district; and

58 (j) Provides strategies and a schedule for the
59 planning, development and management of such regional cultural
60 heritage tourism district.

61 SECTION 3. For the purpose of reviewing the development of
62 the plan for the regional cultural heritage tourism district,
63 there shall be a task force that includes one (1) representative
64 appointed by each of the following:

65 (a) The boards of supervisors of Adams, Claiborne,
66 Hinds, Jefferson, Madison, Rankin, Warren and Wilkinson Counties;

67 (b) The mayors of each municipality in the proposed
68 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

69 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of
70 Archives and History;

71 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of
72 Economic and Community Development;

73 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of
74 Transportation;

75 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of
76 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks;

77 (g) The President of Alcorn State University;

78 (h) The President of Jackson State University;

79 (i) The Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission;

80 (j) The Chairman of the Mississippi River Parkway
81 Commission;

82 (k) The Regional Superintendent of the U.S. Department
83 of Interior, National Park Service;

84 (l) Other representatives as the Department of Economic
85 and Community Development deems appropriate.

86 SECTION 4. For purposes of this act, the Department of
87 Economic and Community Development shall be authorized:

88 (a) To advocate, coordinate, develop, plan, promote and
89 research cultural and historical attractions, events, properties
90 and services in the proposed regional cultural heritage tourism
91 district;

92 (b) To enter into such contracts and cooperative
93 agreements with the local, state and federal government with
94 agencies of such governments, with private individuals, and with
95 corporations, associations and other organizations, as the
96 department may deem necessary or convenient; and

97 (c) To provide grants to fund the cost of construction,
98 preservation, restoration, renovation, repair, investigation,
99 promotion or interpretation of cultural and historic attractions,

100 events, properties and services within the proposed regional
101 cultural heritage tourism district.

102 SECTION 5. In addition to the duties and powers given to the
103 Department of Economic and Community Development in the foregoing
104 provisions of this act, the department shall survey cultural and
105 historical attractions, events, properties and services within
106 other identifiable geographic regions throughout this state to
107 determine other areas in which it would be viable and appropriate
108 to establish regional cultural heritage tourism districts similar
109 to the pilot district authorized in this act. The department
110 shall submit a report of its findings to the Legislature on or
111 before December 1, 2001, by filing a report thereon with the
112 Secretary of the Mississippi Senate, the Clerk of the Mississippi
113 House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Economic
114 Development, Tourism and Parks Committee and the Chairman of the
115 House Appropriations Committee.

116 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
117 and after July 1, 2000.