

By: Representatives Moak, Horne, Robinson
(84th), Snowden, Young, Nicholson, Dickson

To: Public Buildings,
Grounds and Lands;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1269

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SOUTHERN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER;
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE CENTER SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
3 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS; TO CREATE
4 A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE CENTER, MONIES IN WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR
5 THE CONSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTER; TO AMEND
6 SECTION 49-4-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO;
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Southern Arts and
10 Entertainment Center located in Meridian, Mississippi. The
11 purpose of the center shall be to provide an educational,
12 entertaining and interactive facility to illustrate the unique
13 culture of the State of Mississippi and other southern states; to
14 illustrate the outstanding contributions of Mississippians to the
15 arts and the field of entertainment; and to provide family-oriented
16 attractions in the delivery of an educational experience to
17 citizens of, and visitors to, Mississippi.

18 (2) The Southern Arts and Entertainment Center shall consist
19 of a conference center, a performing arts theater, an amphitheater
20 and an artists' village. The center shall conduct ongoing events
21 such as induction into an arts and entertainment hall of fame,
22 seminars, workshops and demonstrations by guest artists.

23 (3) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
24 Parks shall administer the Southern Arts and Entertainment Center
25 and may acquire land and property in order to construct and
26 administer the center. The department may hire a director of the
27 center, who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Commission
28 on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The director shall administer

29 the center in accordance with the policies established by the
30 commission.

31 (4) For the construction, operation, support and
32 administration of the center, the center may receive contributions,
33 donations of land or other property, gifts, bequests of money,
34 other forms of financial assistance and property, equipment,
35 materials or manpower from persons, foundations, trust funds,
36 corporations, organizations, and other sources, public or private,
37 to be expended and utilized in carrying out the mission of the
38 center.

39 (5) All expenditures for the center shall be paid by the
40 State Treasurer on warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer, and
41 he shall issue his warrants upon requisition signed by the director
42 of the center.

43 (6) The duties and objectives of the center shall be:

44 (a) To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the
45 study and presentation of the performing, visual, and literary arts
46 and public interest and participation therein;

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

50 (c) To take such steps as may be necessary and
51 appropriate, to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage
52 of Mississippi and the South, to expand the state's cultural
53 resources, and to promote the use of art in the state government's
54 activities and facilities; and

55 (d) To encourage excellence and assist freedom of
56 artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts.

57 SECTION 2. (1) The Southern Arts and Entertainment Center,
58 under the direction and administration of the Mississippi
59 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, is authorized and
60 empowered to hold public hearings, to enter into contracts within
61 the limit of funds available therefor, with individuals,

62 organizations and institutions for services furthering the
63 objectives of the center's programs; to enter into contracts,
64 within the limit of funds available therefor, with local and
65 regional associations for cooperative endeavors furthering the
66 objectives of the center's programs; to accept gifts, contributions
67 and bequests of unrestricted funds from individuals, foundations,
68 corporations and other organizations or institutions for the
69 purpose of furthering the objectives of the center's programs; to
70 make and sign any agreements and to do and perform any acts that
71 may be necessary to carry out the purposes of Sections 1 and 2 of
72 this act. The center may request and shall receive from any
73 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
74 state such assistance and data as will enable it properly to carry
75 out its powers and duties under Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

76 (2) Any monies made available by public or private transfers
77 of property, public or private donations or bequests, public or
78 private foundation grants for the benefit of the Southern Arts and
79 Entertainment Center shall be deposited into the Southern Arts and
80 Entertainment Center Fund, a special fund which is created in the
81 State Treasury. All funds deposited in this fund shall be used
82 exclusively for the construction, operation, support and
83 administration of the Southern Arts and Entertainment Center.
84 Unexpended amounts remaining in the special fund at the end of a
85 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
86 interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the special
87 fund shall be deposited to the credit of the special fund.

88 SECTION 3. Section 49-4-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
89 amended as follows:

90 49-4-9. Effective July 1, 1979, the Department of Wildlife,
91 Fisheries and Parks shall have the following powers and duties:

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

94 (b) To apply for, receive and expend any federal or
95 state funds or contributions, gifts, devises, bequests or funds
96 from any other source;

97 (c) To commission or conduct studies designed to
98 determine alternative methods of managing and conserving the
99 wildlife and fisheries resources of this state in a manner to
100 insure efficiency and sustained productivity;

101 (d) To receive the advice and counsel of the advisory
102 committees created for the Division of Parks and Recreation and
103 the Division of Wildlife and Fisheries; * * *

104 (e) To administer the Southern Arts and Entertainment
105 Center and take any action authorized in Sections 1 and 2 of House
106 Bill No. _____, 2001 Regular Session; and

107 (f) To discharge such other duties, responsibilities
108 and powers as are necessary to implement the provisions of this
109 chapter.

110 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after its passage.