AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 39-5-91, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND MILEAGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39-5-91, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

39-5-91. (1) There is hereby created a Mississippi Civil War Battlefield Commission consisting of the following fifteen (15) members:

(a) Nine (9) members appointed by the Governor with three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1, 1998, three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2000, and three (3) serving for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002;

(b) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002;

(c) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002;

(d) One (1) member appointed by the Jackson Civil War Roundtable for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002; and

(e) Three (3) members appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History for an initial term concluding on March 1, 2002.

After the initial terms, all terms shall be for six (6) years. An appointment to fill a vacancy which arises for reasons...
other than by expiration of a term of office shall be made by the
respective appointing authority for the unexpired term only.

(2) The commission shall elect from its membership a
chairman who shall preside over meetings and a vice chairman who
shall preside in the absence of the chairman or when the chairman
shall be excused.

(3) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
governing times and places for meetings. A majority of members of
the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
any business. The commission shall meet at least quarterly. The
commission may form subcommittees to address specific issues
concerning preservation and enhancement of Civil War sites and
structures. The commission may adopt other procedures necessary
to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

(4) The members of the commission shall receive no
compensation for their services, but shall receive reimbursement
for actual expenses and mileage incurred in attending necessary
business of the commission, as authorized by law.

(5) Principal staff support for the commission shall be
provided by the Department of Archives and History. Other
agencies shall assist when requested by the commission.

(6) The commission shall have the following duties:

(a) Identify and prioritize for protecting
Mississippi's Civil War sites and structures;

(b) Identify, analyze and enhance preservation
opportunities for Mississippi's Civil War sites and structures;

(c) Review existing local, state and federal plans,
programs and policies related to Mississippi's Civil War sites and
structures;

(d) Develop relationships with federal and local
officials and private conservation organizations which facilitate
protection and enhancement of Civil War sites and structures;
(e) Coordinate Mississippi's participation with the federal government and private foundations to secure support and financial resources for the protection and enhancement of Civil War sites and structures;

(f) Advise state agencies on matters relating to Civil War sites and structures; and

(g) Perform any other such duties or actions in an effort to advance Civil War history in Mississippi.

(7) The commission shall submit to the Governor an annual report by December 1 of each year which shall include recommendations for any legislative, administrative or other changes the commission deems necessary to further Civil War history in Mississippi.

(8) State agencies shall consider the impact of their actions on Civil War sites and structures as identified by the commission whenever permitting, planning, funding or undertaking any construction projects.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.