

By: Senator(s) Burton, Carmichael, Gordon,  
Minor, Jackson, Dickerson, Chamberlin, King,  
Huggins, Cuevas

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2444

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN ARTS  
2 AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI; TO AUTHORIZE  
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO ADMINISTER ANY  
4 PUBLIC FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF  
5 THE CENTER; TO CREATE THE SOUTHERN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER  
6 FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 SECTION 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes the need for an  
8 arts and entertainment center in Mississippi to enable Mississippi  
9 artists, musicians and dancers to demonstrate their skills to  
10 Mississippians and tourists from other states, and to serve as a  
11 shrine to Mississippi's rich tradition of artists, musicians and  
12 entertainers.

13 (2) The Southern Arts and Entertainment Center is hereby  
14 established to be housed in a facility located within the  
15 corporate limits of Meridian, Mississippi.

16 (3) The Department of Finance and Administration is  
17 authorized to receive any public funds made available from  
18 appropriation or otherwise for the construction, equipping or  
19 operation of the Southern Arts and Entertainment Center facility,  
20 and may purchase property for such purpose. The Department of  
21 Finance and Administration may also enter into a lease, sublease  
22 or operating agreement for the operation of such facility for a  
23 period not exceeding twenty (20) years.

24 (4) There is established in the State Treasury the Southern  
25 Arts and Entertainment Center Fund into which shall be deposited  
26 any public funds from appropriation or otherwise made available  
27 for the construction, equipping or operation of the Southern Arts  
28 and Entertainment Center. Any unexpended funds in said fund

29 remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse, but shall  
30 be available for expenditure in any subsequent fiscal year.

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