

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2946

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL
 2 HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
 3 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT
 4 OF MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL STUDY THE
 5 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 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CERTAIN POWERS WITH REGARD TO
 13 ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT
 14 AUTHORITY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS IN
 15 THIS STATE WHERE SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND VIABLE;
 16 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

25 SECTION 2. Within twelve (12) months after the effective
 26 date of this act, the Mississippi Development Authority shall
 27 develop and submit to the Legislature a plan that:

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

31 (b) Specifies the goals and objectives for such
 32 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

67 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of
68 Archives and History;

69 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
70 Development Authority;

71 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of
72 Transportation;

73 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of
74 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks;

75 (g) The President of Alcorn State University;

76 (h) The President of Jackson State University;

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

78 (j) The Chairman of the Mississippi River Parkway
79 Commission;

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

82 (l) Other representatives as the Mississippi
83 Development Authority deems appropriate.

84 SECTION 4. For purposes of this act, the Mississippi
85 Development Authority shall be authorized:

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

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

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

98 events, properties and services within the proposed regional
99 cultural heritage tourism district.

100 SECTION 5. In addition to the duties and powers given to the
101 Mississippi Development Authority in the foregoing provisions of
102 this act, the authority shall survey cultural and historical
103 attractions, events, properties and services within other
104 identifiable geographic regions throughout this state to determine
105 other areas in which it would be viable and appropriate to
106 establish regional cultural heritage tourism districts similar to
107 the pilot district authorized in this act. The authority shall
108 submit a report of its findings to the Legislature on or before
109 December 1, 2002, by filing a report thereon with the Secretary of
110 the Mississippi Senate, the Clerk of the Mississippi House of
111 Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Economic Development,
112 Tourism and Parks Committee and the Chairman of the House
113 Appropriations Committee.

114 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
115 and after July 1, 2001.