

By: Representative Fleming

To: Public Property;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 18

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL
2 RIGHTS MUSEUM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM
3 SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REGARDING THE MUSEUM; TO
6 CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM FUND"; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature recognizes a need for a civil
10 rights museum in Mississippi to promote the educational and social
11 development of Mississippians and to honor those persons who have
12 made significant contributions toward the advancement of civil
13 rights in Mississippi and the United States. The Legislature
14 further recognizes that a civil rights museum would be of great
15 economic and cultural importance to Mississippi.

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) A facility to house the Mississippi Civil
17 Rights Museum shall be located on state property at a location
18 recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives
19 and History.

20 (2) (a) The museum shall be under the supervision and
21 control of the Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and
22 History.

23 (b) The duties and powers of the Board of Trustees of
24 the Department of Archives and History shall include, in addition
25 to other duties and powers granted or prescribed by law, the
26 following:

27 (i) To promulgate rules and regulations governing
28 the operation of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum;

29 (ii) To promulgate rules and regulations governing
30 the acquisition of furniture and furnishings, including but not
31 limited to paintings and objects of art and the acquisition of
32 documents for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

33 (c) To promote the donation, bequest, devise or loaning
34 of money or property, real or personal, from any agency of the
35 United States, state or local government, any person, firm,
36 corporation, association or group, for the purpose of the
37 operation, administration and maintenance of the Mississippi Civil
38 Rights Museum;

39 (d) To acquire, preserve, restore or operate any real
40 or personal property deemed significant for historical,
41 architectural or cultural reasons, to expend funds for such
42 purposes, to enter into contracts or agreements with any agency of
43 the United States or any person, firm, corporation or association
44 for the purpose of the operation, administration and maintenance
45 of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, and to do any and all
46 things which may be necessary or desirable to carry out such
47 purpose; and

48 (e) To review and approve any major changes in the
49 architecture, furnishings, objects of art and other matters
50 effecting the repair, preservation, operation, maintenance or
51 protection of property of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

52 **SECTION 3.** (1) (a) A special fund to be designated as the
53 "Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Fund," is created in the State
54 Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as
55 a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General
56 Fund of the State. The special fund shall consist of funds
57 appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature in any
58 manner and funds from any other source designated for deposit into
59 such fund. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of
60 a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any

61 investment earnings or interest earned on amounts in the fund
62 shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

63 (b) Monies in the fund shall be disbursed, in the
64 discretion of the Department of Finance and Administration, to pay
65 the costs of designing, constructing and maintaining the
66 Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

67 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration shall
68 proceed with the planning, construction, furnishing and equipping
69 of a facility to house the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum as soon
70 as practicable.

71 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2004.