

By: Representatives Stevens, Frierson,
Clarke

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 882

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 17-3-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN CONVENTION BUREAUS AND LOCAL TOURISM
3 COMMISSIONS TO CONTRACT FOR AN ANNUAL AUDIT WITH A CERTIFIED
4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM; TO AMEND SECTION 57-1-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE
5 OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO
6 ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL TOURISM ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSE
7 OF DEVELOPING REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR TOURISM PROMOTION; TO
8 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, IN CONJUNCTION
9 WITH THE FORMULATION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR TOURISM PROMOTION,
10 TO REQUIRE THAT LOCAL TOURISM ENTITIES ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH
11 THE AUTHORITY AS A PRECONDITION TO RECEIVING ANY STATE GRANTS TO
12 PROMOTE TOURISM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
15 17-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972:

16 17-3-33. Any convention bureau or local tourism commission
17 established under this chapter, or any other law of the State of
18 Mississippi, that receives funds from any special levy imposed for
19 the support of the convention bureau or tourism commission, shall
20 hire annually a private certified public accounting firm to
21 complete an audit of the expenditures of the commission or bureau
22 and its compliance with state law. A copy of the annual audit
23 shall be provided to the State Department of Audit.

24 **SECTION 2.** Section 57-1-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
25 amended as follows:

26 57-1-59. The Mississippi Development Authority shall have
27 the following general powers and duties with respect to tourism:

28 (a) To promote and advertise the image of Mississippi
29 both within and without the boundaries of this state;

30 (b) To promote and advertise fairs and similar
31 activities of interest to tourists and the traveling public;

32 (c) To promote and advertise the use of wildlife and
33 natural areas by tourists and the traveling public;

34 (d) To promote and advertise the use of state
35 recreational and park facilities by tourists and the traveling
36 public;

37 (e) To promote and advertise all resources of the State
38 of Mississippi as attractions to tourists and the traveling
39 public;

40 (f) To develop for all agencies of state government the
41 necessary promotional and advertising materials needed to promote
42 all facilities and programs which may be of interest to travelers
43 and tourists;

44 (g) To maintain an educational awareness program for
45 the citizens of the state to constantly encourage increased
46 development of activities of interest to tourists and the
47 traveling public;

48 (h) To develop and maintain an information services
49 system to adequately guide tourists and the traveling public
50 within the boundaries of the state; * * *

51 (i) To develop and maintain an extensive media program
52 to adequately inform the national and international consumer about
53 Mississippi; and

54 (j) To enter into contracts with local tourism entities
55 for the purpose of developing regional strategies for tourism
56 promotion. In conjunction with the formulation of regional
57 strategies for tourism promotion, the authority may require that
58 local tourism entities enter into agreements with the authority as
59 a precondition to receiving any state grants to promote tourism.

60 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act shall take effect and be in
61 force from and after October 1, 2004. Section 2 of this act shall
62 take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2004.