

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Economic Development and  
Tourism; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2344

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 MISSISSIPPI  
4 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL  
5 CULTURAL HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE COUNTIES OF ADAMS, CLAIBORNE,  
6 HINDS, JEFFERSON, MADISON, RANKIN, WARREN AND WILKINSON; TO  
7 PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY SHALL SUBMIT A  
8 PLAN REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH DISTRICT TO THE  
9 LEGISLATURE WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT;  
10 TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE  
11 DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH PLAN; TO GRANT THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT  
12 AUTHORITY CERTAIN POWERS WITH REGARD TO ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT;  
13 TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO MAKE  
14 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS IN THIS STATE WHERE  
15 SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND VIABLE; AND FOR RELATED  
16 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, 2004, 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, 2004.