

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: County Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2778

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17-1-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS TO ACQUIRE, HOLD AND
3 MAINTAIN PROPERTY AND TO LEASE, ASSIGN AND CONVEY THE PROPERTY FOR
4 THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THEIR OPERATIONS; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 17-1-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 17-1-35. Any regional planning commission created hereunder
10 shall be authorized and empowered as follows:

11 (a) To adopt rules or procedure for the regulations of
12 its affairs, set forth policies and procedures for the conduct of
13 its business, and to appoint, from among its members, a chairman
14 and vice chairman, to serve annually, provided that such chairman
15 may be subject to reelection.

16 (b) To adopt an official name, seal, and retain and
17 keep minutes of its meetings in a firmly bound minute book, in
18 which all actions taken by the commission about its business shall
19 so be recorded.

20 (c) To maintain an office at such place or places as it
21 may designate, and meet at regular times on one day each and every
22 month of the year.

23 (d) To employ and to compensate such personnel,
24 consultants and technical and professional assistance as shall be
25 necessary to exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth
26 in Sections 17-1-31 through 17-1-35, inclusive.

27 (e) To make and enter into all contracts and agreements
28 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the

29 execution of its powers under Sections 17-1-31 through 17-1-35,
30 inclusive. The chairman of said regional commission shall be the
31 duly authorized individual to execute contracts on behalf of said
32 commission, upon duly and properly entered resolution of said
33 commission so authorizing him to enter and execute said contract.

34 (f) To hold public hearings and sponsor public forums
35 in any part of the regional area whenever the commission deems it
36 necessary or useful in the execution of its functions.

37 (g) To accept and receive, in the furtherance of its
38 functions, funds, grants, and service from the federal government,
39 or its agencies; from departments, agencies and instrumentalities
40 of state, municipal or local government; or from private or civic
41 sources.

42 (h) To receive and expend such sums of money as shall
43 be from time to time appropriated for its use by any county,
44 state, or municipality, and to receive and expend federal funds.

45 (i) To cooperate in the exercise of its planning
46 functions with federal and state agencies.

47 (j) To be a body corporate and as such, may sue and be
48 sued, in any suit against the commission, service of process shall
49 be had by service upon the chairman with such process.

50 (k) To acquire, hold and maintain property, real,
51 personal and mixed, and to lease, assign and convey the same, for
52 the purpose of maintaining the operations of the regional planning
53 commission.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after its passage.