

By: Representative Fleming

To: Public Property;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 294

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                   (iii) To promote the donation, bequest, devise or  
34 loaning of money or property, real or personal, from any agency of  
35 the 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                   (iv) To acquire, preserve, restore or operate any  
40 real 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                   (v) 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, 2005.