

By: Representatives Peranich, Broomfield,  
Capps, Coleman (29th), Cummings, Dickson,  
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To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 500

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-1-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO  
3 AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL TOURISM ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
4 DEVELOPING REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR TOURISM PROMOTION; TO AUTHORIZE  
5 THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE SUCH AGREEMENTS  
6 AS A CONDITION FOR RECEIVING STATE GRANTS TO PROMOTE TOURISM; TO  
7 REFLECT THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
8 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT  
9 AUTHORITY; TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
10 17-3-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN LOCAL  
11 CONVENTION BUREAUS, TOURISM COMMISSIONS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES TO  
12 CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR AN  
13 ANNUAL AUDIT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-1-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 57-1-59. The Mississippi Development Authority shall have  
18 the following general powers and duties with respect to tourism:

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

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

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

25 (d) To promote and advertise the use of state  
26 recreational and park facilities by tourists and the traveling  
27 public;

28 (e) To promote and advertise all resources of the State  
29 of Mississippi as attractions to tourists and the traveling  
30 public;

31 (f) To develop for all agencies of state government the  
32 necessary promotional and advertising materials needed to promote

33 all facilities and programs which may be of interest to travelers  
34 and tourists;

35 (g) To maintain an educational awareness program for  
36 the citizens of the state to constantly encourage increased  
37 development of activities of interest to tourists and the  
38 traveling public;

39 (h) To develop and maintain an information services  
40 system to adequately guide tourists and the traveling public  
41 within the boundaries of the state; \* \* \*

42 (i) To develop and maintain an extensive media program  
43 to adequately inform the national and international consumer about  
44 Mississippi; and

45 (j) To enter into contracts and other agreements with  
46 local tourism commissions or similar entities for the purpose of  
47 developing regional strategies for tourism promotion. The  
48 Mississippi Development Authority, in conjunction with the  
49 formulation of regional strategies for tourism promotion, may  
50 require that local tourism commissions or similar entities enter  
51 into agreements with the authority as a condition for receiving  
52 any state grants to promote tourism.

53 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section  
54 17-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972:

55 17-3-33. Any convention bureau, local tourism commission or  
56 similar entity established under this chapter or any other law of  
57 the State of Mississippi, including any local and private law of  
58 the State of Mississippi, which receives funds from any special  
59 tax or levy imposed for the support of such bureau, commission or  
60 similar entity, shall annually hire a private certified public  
61 accounting firm to complete an audit of the revenues and  
62 expenditures of the bureau, commission or similar entity and its  
63 compliance with state law. A copy of the annual audit shall be  
64 provided to the State Department of Audit.

65           **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act shall take effect and be in  
66 force from and after July 1, 2005. Section 2 of this act shall  
67 take effect and be in force from and after October 1, 2005.