

By: Representative Perkins

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1555

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA AS THE DELTA
2 HERITAGE CROSSROADS REGION; TO SPECIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE
3 DESIGNATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The Mississippi Delta is hereby designated as the
6 Delta Heritage Crossroads Region, a place of concentrated heritage
7 resources. The purpose of such designation is to:

8 (a) Forge public and private partnerships that result
9 in creative coalitions aimed toward conserving and preserving the
10 intrinsic values contained within the seven-county area that is
11 rich in heritage, cultural, recreational, historic and natural
12 resources;

13 (b) Establish central coordination of efforts that
14 bring together local, state, and federal governments, directly or
15 indirectly, in designing, establishing, and maintaining physical,
16 educational, and social structures that support tourism
17 enterprises, repositories of culture, and interpretive centers
18 that promote the Delta's heritage and cultural assets;

19 (c) Develop collective approaches to increasing public
20 awareness of and appreciation for the historical, scenic, natural,
21 and cultural resources and sites in the trace area;

22 (d) Create incentives for the coming together of
23 private and nonprofit cultural organizations dedicated to the
24 restoration of any historic building or structure and of any
25 damaged or impaired natural systems or features in the trace area;

26 (e) Identify and utilize educational institutions that
27 serve as repositories for ethnic and African-American history and

28 culture, the Civil Rights struggle, post-Civil War maroon
29 communities, Rosenwald schools, and the Delta region's early
30 pioneers to current history makers. Participating counties will
31 identify and select appropriate educational institutions; and
32 (f) Encourage, by appropriate means, enhanced economic
33 development in the Delta Heritage Crossroads Region consistent
34 with the goals of community and regional development.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2005.