

By: Representatives Mayo, Hines, Masterson,
Bailey, Burnett, Clark, Coleman (29th), Espy,
Flaggs, Huddleston, Johnson, McBride, Morris,
Perkins, Reynolds, Stevens, Straughter,
Thomas, Whittington, Howell

To: Universities and
Colleges; Ways and Means

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION REVITALIZATION
2 ACT OF 2006; TO MAKE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; TO CREATE THE SPECIAL
3 TASK FORCE FOR REVITALIZATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION; TO
4 PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE; TO ESTABLISH WITHIN
5 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AN
6 OFFICE TO SERVE THE TASK FORCE; TO SET FORTH DUTIES AND
7 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE, AND TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI
8 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE STAFF AND OTHER SUPPORT TO THE
9 OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE SHALL FUNCTION AS AN
10 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL GROUP CHARGED WITH SETTING
11 SHORT-RANGE AND LONG-RANGE GOALS FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE
12 MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION; TO REQUIRE THE HOLDING OF PUBLIC
13 HEARINGS IN THE REGION AND THE PREPARATION OF A LONG-RANGE ACTION
14 PLAN FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE REGION AND SPECIFY THE PARTS OF
15 THE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** This act may be cited as the "Mississippi Delta
18 Region Revitalization Act of 2006."

19 **SECTION 2.** (1) For purposes of this act, the Mississippi
20 Delta Region, which may be hereinafter referred to as the region,
21 shall be defined as the western section of the State of
22 Mississippi that lies between the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers,
23 encompassing in part or whole the counties of Bolivar, Carroll,
24 Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman,
25 Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington and
26 Yazoo.

27 (2) The Legislature finds that the prospective well-being of
28 the people of the Mississippi Delta Region of the state requires
29 that the economic and other development of the region should be
30 strategically, comprehensively and exhaustively planned and that
31 the plan be systematically implemented. The Legislature further
32 finds that the state should foster open communication between
33 government and the private sectors of our economy in the

34 Mississippi Delta Region and that the state should provide a
35 policy, a vision and a framework to encourage an environment
36 conducive to the revitalization of our state's Delta region.

37 (3) The Legislature hereby declares that the public policy
38 of this state requires an overall, comprehensive and coordinated
39 plan for maximum and accelerated revitalization of the Mississippi
40 Delta Region.

41 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Special Task Force for Revitalization of
42 the Mississippi Delta Region is hereby created. The task force
43 shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members, to be appointed as
44 follows:

45 (a) Four (4) members of the Mississippi House of
46 Representatives who reside in the Mississippi Delta Region,
47 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

48 (b) Four (4) members of the Mississippi State Senate,
49 who reside in the Mississippi Delta Region, appointed by the
50 Lieutenant Governor.

51 (c) One (1) member from the state's public
52 universities, one (1) member from the state's junior colleges and
53 one (1) member from the Mississippi Delta Region who is not a
54 state legislator, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
55 Representatives.

56 (d) One (1) member from the state's public
57 universities, one (1) member from the state's junior colleges and
58 one (1) member from the Mississippi Delta Region who is not a
59 state legislator, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

60 (e) One (1) member from the membership or staffs of the
61 Mississippi Association of Supervisors and the Mississippi
62 Municipal Association. These members will be appointed to the
63 task force by the Governor from recommendations made to the board
64 by the respective organizations.

65 (f) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
66 Development Authority or his designee.

67 (g) Four (4) members to be selected by the Governor,
68 three (3) of whom shall be representatives of business or
69 entrepreneurial enterprises in the Mississippi Delta Region.

70 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task force
71 will be organized, selected and constituted in such a way that it
72 represents the most talented individuals who could possibly be
73 assembled to address the concerns and issues associated with the
74 revitalization of the Mississippi Delta Region. Task force
75 members shall be appointed by May 1, 2006, and the task force
76 shall have its organizational meeting no later than May 15, 2006.
77 The task force shall elect from among its membership a chairman
78 and vice chairman. Terms of service of task force members shall
79 coincide with the duration of the task force.

80 (3) All persons selected for service on the task force shall
81 be creative, knowledgeable and accomplished people with the
82 capacity to contribute to the mission of the task force.
83 Vacancies on the task force shall be filled in a manner consistent
84 with original appointments.

85 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is hereby established within the Board
86 of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning an office
87 to serve the Special Task Force for Revitalization of the
88 Mississippi Delta Region. The office shall:

89 (a) Provide staff support, including an employee to
90 serve as the task force coordinator, to the task force and shall
91 organize and coordinate the work of the task force.

92 (b) Make available office space for the task force to
93 include conference room facilities.

94 (c) Be responsible for preparing and maintaining a
95 long-range plan for the revitalization and economic and other
96 development of the state's Delta region. The plan shall be
97 sufficiently broad in scope so as to address all regional, state,
98 national and international economic, demographic, education, work
99 force training, community, housing, public health, crime, natural

100 resource and infrastructure factors relating to the overall
101 status, revitalization and development of the Mississippi Delta
102 Region.

103 (d) Work in coordination with the Mississippi
104 Development Authority in all aspects of serving the task force.

105 (2) The Mississippi Development Authority shall provide any
106 staff support to the office that it or the task force may request.

107 **SECTION 5.** The mission and role of the special task force
108 shall be to function as an independent research and analytical
109 group charged with setting measurable, achievable and significant
110 goals to revitalize the Mississippi Delta Region. The task force
111 shall conduct public hearings in the region and make
112 recommendations regarding such goals and present findings and
113 detailed recommendations which will enable the region to achieve
114 the stated goals. Recommendations of the task force shall be
115 specific to the extent that actions needed are explicitly set out
116 and supported with in-depth analyses as to the contributions such
117 actions would have on the revitalization of the region. All
118 recommendations shall be accompanied by specific requests with
119 respect to allocation of resources, including any additional
120 funding necessary to fund the revitalization activities.

121 **SECTION 6.** With research and recommendations prepared by the
122 task force, the office shall prepare a long-range action plan for
123 the revitalization of the region, which shall consist of five (5)
124 parts as provided in this act.

125 **SECTION 7.** Part I of the plan will identify specific,
126 quantifiable goals to be accomplished in the next succeeding
127 five-, ten- and twenty-year periods. Before proposing the goals
128 required for Part I of the plan, at least three (3) public
129 hearings shall be held in each of the northern, central and
130 southern portions of the region, in order to receive public input
131 on the goal setting process and deliberations pertaining to that
132 process.

133 The goals proposed by the office shall be reasonable,
134 challenging, achievable and shall be expressed in measures of
135 achievement that would represent comparative and significant
136 economic progress and revitalization for the region.

137 **SECTION 8.** Part II of the economic development plan shall
138 include:

139 (a) An inventory and analysis of the region's
140 competitive advantages and an inventory and analysis of factors
141 which tend to retard economic and other development in the region;

142 (b) Identification and analysis of state, national and
143 international economic trends affecting the region's development;

144 (c) An analysis and evaluation of the state's taxing
145 effort as it affects the region's economic development and other
146 efforts and an analysis of how economic development goals and
147 objectives in the region relate to projected short- and long-term
148 state and local revenues dedicated to the region and to the
149 possible and potential impact on the region's revenue structure;

150 (d) An identification and analysis of key factors
151 affecting economic development in the region;

152 (e) An identification and analysis of factors affecting
153 industrial location and decisions affecting expansion of existing
154 business and industry within the region;

155 (f) An analysis of the region's incentive programs and
156 economic development strategies and a comparison with other
157 regions of the state;

158 (g) An analysis of the region's work force and of the
159 economic and educational conditions that the work force will face
160 in future years;

161 (h) An analysis of and assessment of the minority
162 business and commercial activity, capability, potential and needs
163 in the region;

164 (i) An analysis of and assessment of income in the
165 region by various income groups to provide the analytical base for

166 developing programs and recommendations to address low income high
167 unemployment problems in the region;

168 (j) An analysis and assessment of programs in other
169 states and in the federal government which seek to foster,
170 encourage and assist minority involvement in and contributions
171 toward economic development. The programs to be assessed shall
172 include, but not be limited to, set aside procurement programs.

173 **SECTION 9.** (1) Part III of the economic development plan
174 shall provide a procedure for monitoring the implementation of
175 efforts proposed by the task force and the plan. In formulating
176 this procedure, the office will survey, identify and analyze every
177 government program and private resource and activity that is
178 available to, that is being applied toward or that contributes to
179 the accomplishment of the goals set in the long-range plan. The
180 resources and programs of local, state and federal government and
181 private business shall be identified and analyzed to determine the
182 specific areas in which they contribute to achievement of the
183 overall goals.

184 (2) Each agency and institution of state government involved
185 in economic, demographic, education, work force training,
186 community, housing, public health, crime, natural resources and
187 infrastructure aspects relating to the overall revitalization and
188 development of the Mississippi Delta Region is directed to prepare
189 and submit to the office and the Mississippi Development
190 Authority, work programs covering its activities in the relevant
191 aspects. The office shall specify a uniform format for agencies
192 to follow in preparing their work programs. These work programs
193 shall cover in general the next five (5) years of the plan and, in
194 significant detail, the upcoming fiscal year. Work programs shall
195 be submitted by October 1, 2006, for fiscal year 2007 by those
196 agencies identified as being required to submit work programs.

197 **SECTION 10.** Part IV of the plan shall be an analysis and
198 evaluation of materials in Parts II and III of the plan. This

199 phase of the plan shall also make an overall evaluation of the
200 relative contributions that the resources and efforts identified
201 in Part III are making toward achievement of the overall goals.
202 This phase of the plan shall contain specific recommendations for
203 inclusion in the region's efforts:

204 (a) Specific programs for accelerating the region's
205 overall economic development through greater results from the
206 state's agricultural resources;

207 (b) Specific programs for rural areas of the region and
208 those areas and identifiable groups of people with the highest
209 unemployment and lowest per capita incomes;

210 (c) Specific programs for international trade and the
211 attraction of foreign investment through development of
212 specialized, university-based or other programs;

213 (d) The specific niches that Mississippi has and on
214 which it should focus development efforts or those niches the
215 region should seek to develop; and

216 (e) Specific minority enterprise assistance and
217 development programs that would be needed and recommended.

218 **SECTION 11.** (1) Part V of the economic development plan
219 shall consist of recommendations. The recommendations shall be
220 based on Part IV of the plan and shall seek to improve in every
221 possible and feasible manner the coordination and implementation
222 of all activities and programs outlined and identified as required
223 in Part III of the plan.

224 (2) The plan shall make recommendations regarding new
225 initiatives and new programs and the alteration or expansion of
226 existing programs as deemed necessary to achieve the goals
227 established. The recommendations shall state specifically what is
228 to be done, who is to do it and how it is to be done and shall
229 also set out the cost benefits of each recommendation.

230 (3) The office, in consultation with the task force and the
231 Mississippi Development Authority, shall develop a legislative

232 package containing any statutory actions required to implement the
233 goals established in the state long-range plan for economic
234 development. The legislative package shall be prepared and
235 presented in bill format.

236 **SECTION 12.** All parts of the plan shall be completed no
237 later than December 1, 2006. A preliminary report on the status
238 of the plan shall be made to the Joint Legislative Budget
239 Committee in November 2006.

240 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
241 and after its passage.