

By: Representative Reeves

To: Public Property;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1135

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM STUDY
2 COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDY COMMISSION
3 AND PRESCRIBE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a Mississippi Civil Rights
6 Museum and National Black Sports Hall of Fame Study Commission to
7 conduct a preliminary study regarding the development of a
8 Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in the City of Jackson,
9 Mississippi. Creation of this museum would create a repository
10 for the historical documentation and accurate portrayal of
11 contributions made by the State of Mississippi in the area of
12 civil rights and provide an avenue for educational research and
13 economic growth for Mississippi. The study commission shall make
14 a report of its findings and recommendations to the Mississippi
15 State Legislature by December 1, 2006, including any recommended
16 legislation.

17 (2) The study commission shall be composed of the following
18 ten (10) members:

19 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
20 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House
21 of Representatives, two (2) being members of the Hinds County
22 delegation;

23 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
24 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi,
25 two (2) being members of the Hinds County delegation;

26 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor of the
27 State of Mississippi, two (2) being citizens of Hinds County; and

28 (d) One (1) historian appointed by the Executive
29 Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

30 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
31 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days
32 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
33 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the study commission shall meet
34 and organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a
35 vice chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary
36 and shall be responsible for keeping all records of the study
37 commission. A majority of the members of the study commission
38 shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and
39 the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative
40 vote of a majority of the study commission shall be required. All
41 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices
42 to be mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a
43 meeting is to be held.

44 (4) The study commission shall conduct a preliminary study
45 regarding the development of a Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in
46 the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and the potential benefits to
47 the State of Mississippi fostered by its development. The study
48 commission, in coordination with various state agencies, shall
49 establish working relationships with the City of Jackson,
50 nongovernment organizations and private organizations to better
51 effectuate the study.

52 (5) Nonlegislative members shall serve without salary or per
53 diem compensation. However, all members shall be reimbursed in
54 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual travel
55 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative
56 members of the study commission shall be paid from the contingent
57 expense funds of their respective houses in the same manner as
58 provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in
59 session. However, no per diem or expense for attending meetings
60 of the study commission will be paid to legislative members of the

61 study commission while the Legislature is in session. No study
62 commission member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses
63 unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the study
64 commission, which action shall be recorded in the official minutes
65 of the meeting. Nonlegislative members shall be paid from any
66 funds made available to the study commission for that purpose.

67 (6) The study commission shall use any staff assistance made
68 available to it. To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
69 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
70 state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
71 request of the chairman of the study commission, provide to the
72 study commission such facilities, assistance and data as will
73 enable the study commission to properly carry out its task.

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