

By: Representatives Staples, Barnett, Chism, Denny, Ellington, Formby, Frierson, Hamilton (109th), Hamilton (6th), Ishee, Markham, Masterson, Moore, Robinson (84th), Shows, Vince, Morgan To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JEFFERSON DAVIS BICENTENNIAL
2 COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING AND PLANNING A
3 CELEBRATION IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS' 200TH BIRTHDAY; TO
4 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY THE LIFE AND HISTORY OF
5 JEFFERSON DAVIS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2008 REGULAR
6 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE MOST APPROPRIATE MANNER OF
7 HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS' BIRTH;
8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Jefferson Davis
11 Bicentennial Commission. The purpose of the commission shall be
12 to inform the public of the impact Jefferson Davis had on the
13 development of our nation, the State of Mississippi and all
14 Confederate States, and find the best possible ways to honor his
15 accomplishments. The duties of the commission shall include:

16 (a) To study the entire life and history of Jefferson
17 Davis, including his birth, military service, service as President
18 of the Confederate States, political philosophy and his personal
19 achievements;

20 (b) To recommend to the Mississippi Legislature the
21 activities the commission considers most fitting and proper to
22 honor Jefferson Davis on such occasion, and the entity or entities
23 in Mississippi Government to carry out such activities;

24 (c) To organize, plan and establish celebratory events
25 in recognition of the bicentennial anniversary of Davis' birth in
26 June 2008; and

27 (d) Such other duties as the commission deems
28 appropriate.

29 (2) The commission shall be composed of the following twelve
30 (12) members:

31 (a) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Governor;
32 (b) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Lieutenant
33 Governor;
34 (c) Three (3) advisory members to be appointed by the
35 Speaker of the House; and
36 (d) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Board of
37 Trustees of the Department of Archives and History, who shall
38 possess knowledge and expertise in Mississippi History.

39 (3) Appointments to the commission shall be made within
40 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. The
41 commission shall hold its first meeting before August 1, 2007.
42 The members of the commission at the time of its meeting shall
43 elect two (2) individuals to serve as co-chairmen of the
44 commission.

45 (4) A majority of the members of the commission shall
46 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of rules, resolutions and
47 reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be
48 required. All members shall be notified in writing of all
49 meetings, such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days before
50 the date on which a meeting is to be held.

51 (5) Members of the commission shall receive the customary
52 per diem compensation, expense reimbursement and mileage for
53 attending commission meetings as provided in Sections 25-3-41 and
54 25-3-69.

55 (6) The commission is authorized to accept funds from any
56 source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its
57 duties under this section

58 (7) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
59 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
60 state or any political subdivision thereof, at the request of the
61 co-chairmen of the commission, shall provide such facilities,
62 assistance and data as will enable the commission to properly
63 carry out its duties.

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