

By: Senator(s) Chassaniol, Fillingane,  
Jackson (15th), Watson

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2611

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 39-11-1, 39-11-3, 39-11-7, 39-11-9,  
2 39-11-11 AND 39-11-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO TRANSFER THE  
3 DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AUTHORITY, POWER, ASSETS, LIABILITIES,  
4 CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EMPLOYEES  
5 OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT  
6 AUTHORITY; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND  
7 PROVIDE FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 39-27-1,  
8 39-32-1, 39-33-1 AND 57-11-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN  
9 CONFORMITY THERETO; TO REPEAL SECTION 39-7-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
10 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION TO EMPLOY  
11 AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICERS, EXPERTS AND EMPLOYEES,  
12 AND FIX THEIR SALARIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 39-11-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 39-11-1. \* \* \* From and after July 1, 2017, all duties,  
17 responsibilities, authority, power, assets, liabilities,  
18 contractual rights and obligations and property rights of the  
19 Mississippi Arts Commission are transferred to the Mississippi  
20 Development Authority. All employees of the Mississippi Arts  
21 Commission holding positions on July 1, 2017, shall be employees  
22 of the Mississippi Development Authority.



23           **SECTION 2.** Section 39-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
24 amended as follows:

25           39-11-3. \* \* \* There is created and established the  
26 Mississippi Arts Advisory Council, to consist of fifteen (15)  
27 members broadly representative of all fields of the performing,  
28 visual, literary arts, and the business community, and who are to  
29 be appointed by the Governor from among citizens of the state who  
30 have demonstrated a vital interest in the performing, visual, or  
31 literary arts. Members shall serve a term concurrent with that of  
32 the Governor. The members shall also be representative of the  
33 different geographical areas of the state. All vacancies shall be  
34 filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as  
35 original appointments. The members of the \* \* \* council shall not  
36 receive any compensation for their services but shall be  
37 reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the  
38 performance of their duties as members of the \* \* \* council.  
39 The \* \* \* council will annually elect its chairman and other  
40 officers. The council shall meet at the call of the Executive  
41 Director of the Mississippi Development Authority. The council  
42 shall advise the Mississippi Development Authority regarding its  
43 duties under this chapter.

44           **SECTION 3.** Section 39-11-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
45 amended as follows:

46           39-11-7. The duties and objectives of the \* \* \* Mississippi  
47 Development Authority under this chapter shall be:



48 ( \* \* \*a) To stimulate and encourage throughout the  
49 state the study and presentation of the performing, visual, and  
50 literary arts and public interest and participation therein;

51 ( \* \* \*b) To encourage participation in, appreciation  
52 of, and education in the arts to meet the legitimate needs and  
53 aspirations of persons in all parts of the state;

54 ( \* \* \*c) To take such steps as may be necessary and  
55 appropriate, to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage  
56 of Mississippi, to expand the state's cultural resources, and to  
57 promote the use of art in the state government's activities and  
58 facilities; \* \* \*

59 ( \* \* \*d) To encourage excellence and assist freedom of  
60 artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts; and

61 (e) To promote Mississippi's economic development  
62 through the arts.

63 **SECTION 4.** Section 39-11-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
64 amended as follows:

65 39-11-9. (1) The Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority is  
66 authorized and empowered to hold public hearings, to enter into  
67 contracts within the limit of funds available therefor, with  
68 individuals, organizations and institutions for services  
69 furthering the objectives of the \* \* \* authority's programs under  
70 this chapter; to enter into contracts, within the limit of funds  
71 available therefor, with local and regional associations for  
72 cooperative endeavors furthering the objectives of the \* \* \*



73 authority's programs under this chapter; to accept gifts,  
74 contributions and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations,  
75 corporations and other organizations or institutions for the  
76 purpose of furthering the objectives of the \* \* \* authority's  
77 programs under this chapter; to make and sign any agreements and  
78 to do and perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out the  
79 purposes of this chapter. The \* \* \* Mississippi Development  
80 Authority may request and shall receive from any department,  
81 division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state such  
82 assistance and data as will enable it properly to carry out its  
83 powers and duties \* \* \* under this chapter.

84 (2) A special fund to be designated as the Mississippi Fund  
85 for the Arts is hereby created in the State Treasury. All funds  
86 deposited in this fund shall be used exclusively for the  
87 objectives of the \* \* \* Mississippi Development Authority as  
88 herein provided. Donations, bequests and grants deposited into  
89 the Mississippi Fund for the Arts may be disbursed by the  
90 Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority in accordance with the  
91 terms of the bequest or grant and in compliance with the purposes  
92 and policies of the Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority under  
93 this act. Any disbursements made from the fund shall be  
94 authorized by \* \* \* the Executive Director of the \* \* \*  
95 Mississippi Development Authority. Any unexpended balance in the  
96 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the State  
97 General Fund and may be expended by the \* \* \* Mississippi



98 Development Authority in subsequent fiscal years. Any interest  
99 earned on the fund may remain in the fund for disbursement by  
100 the \* \* \* Mississippi Development Authority in compliance with its  
101 purposes and policies under this chapter. All transactions of the  
102 fund shall be reported annually to appropriate state agencies and  
103 subject to audit by the State Auditor and by auditors of donors.  
104 The Mississippi Fund for the Arts shall not be used for grants  
105 from federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the National  
106 Endowment for the Arts.

107 **SECTION 5.** Section 39-11-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
108 amended as follows:

109 39-11-11. The \* \* \* Mississippi Development Authority is the  
110 official agency of the state to receive and disburse appropriate  
111 funds made available by the federal government for programs  
112 related to the performing, visual, and literary arts.

113 **SECTION 6.** Section 39-11-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
114 amended as follows:

115 39-11-13. (1) (a) A special fund, to be designated as the  
116 "Building Fund for the Arts," is created within the State  
117 Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as  
118 a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General  
119 Fund of the state. The fund shall consist of any money designated  
120 for deposit therein from any source, including, but not limited  
121 to, any state general obligation bonds issued for the purposes  
122 described in this section. Unexpended amounts remaining in the



123 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State  
124 General Fund, and investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall  
125 be deposited into such fund.

126 (b) Money deposited into the fund shall be disbursed,  
127 in the discretion of the Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority,  
128 to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that are qualified as  
129 tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code  
130 and units of local government to pay the costs of:

131 (i) Repair, upgrading, expansion, renovation or  
132 enhancement of existing buildings and facilities for the  
133 presentation, teaching or exhibition of the arts in any and all of  
134 its forms and furniture, equipment and/or technology for such  
135 buildings or facilities;

136 (ii) Construction of new buildings and facilities  
137 for the presentation, teaching or exhibition of the arts in any  
138 and all of its forms and furniture, equipment and/or technology  
139 for such buildings or facilities; or

140 (iii) The development, construction, equipping and  
141 furnishing of an entertainment and film center and museum and  
142 completion of a sound stage project.

143 (c) The entity to which such grants are made shall  
144 provide matching funds from local, federal or private sources  
145 equal to forty percent (40%) of the proposed project cost in order  
146 to be eligible for a grant under this section.



147 (d) The maximum aggregate amount of monies in the  
148 special fund that may be used to provide grant funds to an entity  
149 or combination of entities under paragraph (b)(iii) of this  
150 subsection shall not exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00),  
151 and no monies in the special fund may be used to provide grant  
152 funds under paragraph (b)(iii) of this subsection after July 1,  
153 2003. The maximum aggregate amount of grant funds that may be  
154 provided to an entity or combination of entities under paragraph  
155 (b)(iii) of this subsection during a fiscal year shall not exceed  
156 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00).

157 (2) (a) Amounts deposited into such special fund shall be  
158 disbursed to pay the costs of projects described in subsection (1)  
159 of this section. If any monies in the special fund are derived  
160 from proceeds of bonds issued under Sections 3 through 18 of  
161 Chapter 541, Laws of 2001, as amended by Chapter 540, Laws of  
162 2002, as amended by Chapter 519, Laws of 2003, as amended by  
163 Chapter 1, Laws of 2004 Third Extraordinary Session, as amended by  
164 Chapter 538, Laws of 2006, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 607,  
165 Laws of 2007, and are not used within four (4) years after the  
166 date such bond proceeds are deposited into the special fund, then  
167 the Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority shall provide an  
168 accounting of such unused monies to the State Bond Commission.

169 (b) Monies in the special fund which are derived from  
170 proceeds of bonds issued after April 9, 2002, may be used to  
171 reimburse reasonable actual and necessary costs incurred by the



172 Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority in providing assistance  
173 directly related to a project described in subsection (1) of this  
174 section for which grant funds are provided under this section from  
175 the use of proceeds of such bonds. Reimbursement may be made only  
176 until such time as the project is completed. An accounting of  
177 actual costs incurred for which reimbursement is sought shall be  
178 maintained for each project by the Mississippi \* \* \* Development  
179 Authority. Reimbursement of reasonable actual and necessary costs  
180 for a project shall not exceed three percent (3%) of the proceeds  
181 of bonds issued for such project. Monies authorized for a  
182 particular project may not be used to reimburse administrative  
183 costs for unrelated projects. This paragraph (b) shall be  
184 repealed from and after July 1, 2018.

185 (3) The Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority is expressly  
186 authorized and empowered to receive and expend any local or other  
187 source funds in connection with the expenditure of funds provided  
188 for in this section. The expenditure of money deposited into the  
189 special fund shall be under the direction of the Mississippi \* \* \*  
190 Development Authority, and such funds shall be paid by the State  
191 Treasurer upon warrants issued by the Department of Finance and  
192 Administration upon request of the Mississippi \* \* \* Development  
193 Authority, which warrants shall be issued upon requisitions signed  
194 by the Executive Director of the Mississippi \* \* \* Development  
195 Authority, or his or her designee.





196 (4) The Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority shall adopt  
197 necessary rules and regulations to govern the administration of  
198 the program described in subsection (1) of this section,  
199 including, but not limited to, rules and regulations governing  
200 applications for grants and rules and regulations providing for  
201 the distribution of grant funds. The Mississippi \* \* \*  
202 Development Authority shall comply with the provisions of the  
203 Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law.

204 **SECTION 7.** Section 39-27-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
205 amended as follows:

206 39-27-1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Blues  
207 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "commission." The  
208 commission may accept and expend grants and private donations from  
209 any source, including federal, state, public and private entities,  
210 to assist it to carry out its functions.

211 (2) For purposes of this chapter, the term "blues" shall  
212 mean African-American roots music and the culture that created it.

213 (3) The powers, functions and duties of the commission shall  
214 include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

215 (a) To study, deliberate and report to the Governor and  
216 the Legislature on the best method or plan to market and foster an  
217 appreciation of the blues, to include tourism, academic study and  
218 blues archives, blues historical preservation, blues cultural  
219 education and the support of performing artists. The marketing  
220 plan shall be designed to attract tourists, conferences, music



221 performances, filmmakers and others for the purpose of economic  
222 development of all geographic areas of the state, through the  
223 promotion of the blues and the heritage and culture that produced  
224 the blues, and to analyze the tourism potential of the blues for  
225 Mississippi.

226           (b) To make an inventory of blues "assets" that make up  
227 the blues and blues culture that could be developed into a program  
228 for domestic and international tourism, and opportunities for  
229 investment.

230           (c) To establish a statewide Mississippi "Blues Trail"  
231 infrastructure to offer to tourists and targeted groups a  
232 structured tour of Mississippi blues historical sites and  
233 performance venues.

234           (d) To coordinate with the Division of Tourism of the  
235 Mississippi Development Authority, the Department of Archives and  
236 History, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the  
237 Mississippi Educational Television Authority, the State  
238 Institutions of Higher Learning, the Center for the Study of  
239 Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, the University  
240 Center for Economic Development at Mississippi Valley State  
241 University, the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta  
242 State University, the Delta Blues Museum, the Delta Music  
243 Institute \* \* \* and similar organizations in the sharing of  
244 resources and information in order to ensure a comprehensive  
245 approach to marketing the blues and blues culture in Mississippi.



246 (e) To make recommendations regarding the establishment  
247 of, and budgeting for, a permanent Mississippi Office of the Blues  
248 as an agency of state government with an executive director and  
249 appropriate staff to carry out the marketing plan developed by the  
250 commission. To the extent practical, any office shall be located  
251 at an existing public or private location which is appropriate to  
252 the blues or blues culture in Mississippi, with minimal cost to  
253 the state.

254 (f) To coordinate the blues marketing plan with any  
255 existing state historic preservation programs, in order to:

256 (i) Identify and preserve blues historic  
257 properties or sites;

258 (ii) Determine the eligibility of those properties  
259 or sites for listing on the National Register;

260 (iii) Prepare nominations of those properties or  
261 sites for inclusion on the National Register;

262 (iv) Maintain blues historical and archaeological  
263 data bases; and

264 (v) Evaluate those properties and sites for  
265 eligibility for state and federal preservation incentives.

266 (g) To raise and expend grant funds to provide  
267 assistance to any blues musicians in need.

268 (4) The commission shall be composed of the following  
269 members:



- 270                   (a) The Director of the Division of Tourism of the  
271 Mississippi Development Authority;
- 272                   (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
273 Department of Archives and History, or his designee;
- 274                   (c) The \* \* \* Chair of the Mississippi Arts \* \* \*  
275 Advisory Council, or his designee;
- 276                   (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
277 Educational Television Authority, or his designee;
- 278                   (e) The Director of the Center for the Study of  
279 Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi;
- 280                   (f) Until April 10, 2008, the Director of the  
281 University Center for Economic Development at Mississippi Valley  
282 State University, and after April 10, 2008, a person designated by  
283 the President of Mississippi Valley State University;
- 284                   (g) The Director of the Delta Center for Culture and  
285 Learning at Delta State University;
- 286                   (h) The President of the B.B. King Museum and Delta  
287 Interpretive Center;
- 288                   (i) The State Director of the USDA Rural Development  
289 Agency;
- 290                   (j) Two (2) members of the Mississippi Senate  
291 designated by the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve on a  
292 nonvoting basis;



293           (k) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of  
294 Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House, who shall  
295 serve on a nonvoting basis;

296           (1) Two (2) members appointed by the Governor, who  
297 shall have experience in cultural affairs or tourism development  
298 in the Mississippi Delta; and

299           (m) Four (4) members appointed by the Governor from the  
300 state at large, who shall have demonstrated a commitment to the  
301 understanding and promotion of the blues.

302           (5) The Governor shall designate one (1) commission member  
303 to serve as chairman for a term concurrent with that of the  
304 Governor. The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman  
305 not later than August 1, 2004, and shall organize for business by  
306 adopting internal organizational procedures necessary for  
307 efficient operation of the commission, including officers, quorum  
308 requirements and policies for any commission staff. Each member  
309 of the commission shall designate necessary staff of his or her  
310 respective agency, department, university or business entity, as  
311 the case may be, to provide administrative support to assist the  
312 commission in performing its duties and responsibilities. The  
313 commission shall meet and conduct business at least quarterly each  
314 year. Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public and  
315 opportunity for public comment shall be made available.

316           (6) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation  
317 for their services.



318 (7) The commission shall submit a report, including any  
319 proposed legislation, to the Governor and to the Legislature  
320 before the convening of the 2009 Regular Session. The report  
321 shall include a comprehensive state plan for marketing the blues  
322 as specifically provided above.

323 (8) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and  
324 institutions of the state, and all subdivisions thereof, shall  
325 cooperate with the commission in carrying out its purposes under  
326 this chapter.

327 (9) Any funds or donations received by the commission shall  
328 be deposited into a special fund which is created in the State  
329 Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as  
330 a special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the  
331 state. Unexpended amounts remaining in the special fund at the  
332 end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund,  
333 and any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the  
334 fund shall be deposited to the credit of the special fund.

335 Monies in the fund shall be expended by the Department of  
336 Finance and Administration after receipt of requisitions submitted  
337 by the appropriate person designated by the commission. Monies in  
338 the special fund may be used by the commission in carrying out its  
339 responsibilities under this chapter.

340 **SECTION 8.** Section 39-32-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
341 amended as follows:



342           39-32-1. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi  
343 Country and Western Music Commission, hereinafter referred to as  
344 the "commission." The commission may accept and expend grants and  
345 private donations from any source, including federal, state,  
346 public and private entities, to assist it to carry out its  
347 functions.

348           (2) For purposes of this chapter, the term "country and  
349 western music" shall mean country and western, blue grass and  
350 related music genre and the culture that created it.

351           (3) The powers, functions and duties of the commission shall  
352 include, but not be limited to, the following:

353           (a) To study, deliberate and report to the Governor and  
354 the Legislature on or before January 1, 2012, on the best method  
355 to market and foster an appreciation of country and western music,  
356 to include tourism, academic study and country and western music  
357 archives, country and western music historical preservation,  
358 country and western music cultural education and the support of  
359 performing artists. Such marketing plan shall be designed to  
360 attract tourists, conferences, music performances, filmmakers and  
361 others for the purpose of economic development of all geographic  
362 areas of the state through the promotion of country and western  
363 music and the heritage and culture that produced such, and to  
364 analyze the tourism potential of the country and western music for  
365 Mississippi.



366 (b) To make an inventory of country and western music  
367 "assets" that make up country and western music and its culture  
368 that could be developed into a program for domestic and  
369 international tourism, and opportunities for investment.

370 (c) Coordination with the Division of Tourism of the  
371 Mississippi Development Authority, the Department of Archives and  
372 History, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the  
373 Mississippi Educational Television Authority, the state  
374 institutions of higher learning, the Center for the Study of  
375 Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi \* \* \* and  
376 similar organizations to share resources and information in order  
377 to ensure a comprehensive approach to marketing the country and  
378 western music culture in Mississippi.

379 (d) To make recommendations regarding the establishment  
380 of, and budgeting for, a permanent Mississippi office of country  
381 and western music as an agency of state government with an  
382 executive director and appropriate staff to carry out the  
383 marketing plan developed by the commission. To the extent  
384 practical, any office shall be located at an existing public or  
385 private location which is appropriate to the country and western  
386 music culture in Mississippi, with minimal cost to the state.

387 (e) Coordination of the country and western music  
388 marketing plan with any existing state historic preservation  
389 programs, in order to:





390 (i) Identify and preserve country and western  
391 music historic properties;  
392 (ii) Determine the eligibility of such properties  
393 for listing on the National Register;  
394 (iii) Prepare nominations of such sites for  
395 inclusion on the National Register;  
396 (iv) Maintenance of country and western music  
397 historical and archaeological data bases; and  
398 (v) Evaluation of such sites for eligibility for  
399 state and federal preservation incentives.  
400 (f) To implement and continue the development and  
401 creation of the Mississippi Country Music Trail as outlined in  
402 Section 39-33-1, provide oversight of the trail and its  
403 infrastructure, and explore funding opportunities to support  
404 continued implementation.  
405 (4) The commission shall be composed of the following  
406 members:  
407 (a) The Director of the Division of Tourism of the  
408 Mississippi Development Authority;  
409 (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
410 Department of Archives and History, or his designee;  
411 (c) The \* \* \* Chair of the Mississippi Arts \* \* \*  
412 Advisory Council, or his designee;  
413 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
414 Educational Television Authority, or his designee;



415 (e) The Chairman of the Board of the Southern Arts and  
416 Entertainment Center, or his designee;

417 (f) The Director of the Center for the Study of  
418 Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi;

419 (g) The State Director of the USDA Rural Development  
420 Agency;

421 (h) Two (2) members of the Mississippi Senate  
422 designated by the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve on a  
423 nonvoting basis;

424 (i) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of  
425 Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House, who shall  
426 serve on a nonvoting basis;

427 (j) Two (2) members appointed by the Governor, who  
428 shall have experience in cultural affairs or tourism development  
429 in East Central Mississippi; and

430 (k) Four (4) members appointed by the Governor from the  
431 state at large, who shall have demonstrated a commitment to the  
432 understanding and promotion of country and western music.

433 (5) The Governor shall designate one (1) commission member  
434 to serve as chairman for a term concurrent with that of the  
435 Governor. The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman  
436 not later than July 1, 2011, and shall organize for business by  
437 adopting internal organizational procedures necessary for  
438 efficient operation of the commission, including officers, quorum  
439 requirements and policies for any commission staff. Each member



440 of the commission shall designate necessary staff of their  
441 departments to provide administrative support to assist the  
442 commission in performing its duties and responsibilities. The  
443 commission shall meet and conduct business at least quarterly.  
444 Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public and  
445 opportunity for public comment shall be made available.

446 (6) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation  
447 for their services.

448 (7) The commission shall submit a report, including any  
449 proposed legislation, to the Governor and to the Legislature  
450 before the convening of the 2012 Regular Session. The report  
451 shall include a comprehensive state plan for marketing country and  
452 western music history as specifically provided above.

453 (8) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and  
454 institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall  
455 cooperate with the commission in carrying out its purposes under  
456 this chapter.

457 (9) Any funds or donations received by the commission shall  
458 be deposited into a special fund which is hereby created in the  
459 State Treasury, and disbursement therefrom shall be made upon  
460 warrants by the Department of Finance and Administration after  
461 receipt of requisitions submitted by the appropriate person  
462 designated by the commission. Monies in the special fund may be  
463 used by the commission in carrying out its responsibilities under  
464 this chapter.



465           **SECTION 9.** Section 39-33-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
466 amended as follows:

467           39-33-1. The Division of Tourism of the Mississippi  
468 Development Authority is authorized and directed to do the  
469 following:

470                   (a) To make an inventory of country music "assets" that  
471 make up the country music culture that could be developed into a  
472 program for domestic and international tourism, and opportunities  
473 for investment.

474                   (b) To establish a statewide Mississippi "Country Music  
475 Trail" infrastructure to offer to tourists and target groups a  
476 structured tour of Mississippi country music historical sites and  
477 performance venues.

478                   (c) To designate specific sites for the erection of  
479 appropriate "Mississippi Country Music Trail" markers to offer to  
480 tourists and targeted groups a structured tour of Mississippi  
481 country music historical sites and performance venues. The  
482 division shall be authorized to purchase appropriate Mississippi  
483 Country Music Trail markers from any of its available funds. The  
484 texts for the Mississippi Country Music Trail markers shall be  
485 approved by the division. The Mississippi Department of  
486 Transportation shall cooperate with the division by erecting and  
487 maintaining the markers that have been approved by the division.

488                   (d) To coordinate the Mississippi Country Music Trail  
489 program with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History,



490 the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Mississippi  
491 Educational Television Authority, the Board of Trustees of State  
492 Institutions of Higher Learning, the Jimmie Rogers Museum, the  
493 Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of  
494 Mississippi, the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta  
495 State University \* \* \* and similar organizations to share  
496 resources and information in order to ensure a comprehensive  
497 approach to marketing the country music and country music culture  
498 in Mississippi.

499 (e) To coordinate the Mississippi Country Music Trail  
500 marketing plan with any existing state historic preservation  
501 program, in order to identify and preserve country music historic  
502 properties, and determine the eligibility of such properties for  
503 listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and prepare  
504 nominations of such sites.

505 **SECTION 10.** Section 57-11-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
506 amended as follows:

507 57-11-19. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
508 and Parks, \* \* \* the Mississippi Department of Education, the  
509 Department of Human Services, the Mississippi Extension Service,  
510 the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the  
511 Mississippi \* \* \* Development Authority, and the Mississippi Fair  
512 Commission may cooperate with the marketing council in carrying  
513 out the purposes of Sections 57-11-15 through 57-11-21.



514           **SECTION 11.** Section 39-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, which  
515 authorizes the Mississippi Arts Commission to employ an executive  
516 director and other officers, experts and employees, and fix their  
517 salaries, is repealed.

518           **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
519 and after July 1, 2017.

