

By: Representative Hines

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 110

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA PROMISE ZONE ACT
 2 OF 2018; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; TO PROVIDE THE
 3 COUNTIES THAT MAKE UP THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROMISE ZONE; TO
 4 REQUIRE THE PROMISE ZONE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI
 5 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TO UTILIZE A REGIONAL APPROACH TO DEVELOP
 6 OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE JOB GROWTH AND LOCAL INCENTIVES FOR
 7 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROMISE ZONE SHALL BE
 8 GOVERNED BY A BOARD COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE PUBLIC AND
 9 PRIVATE SECTOR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROMISE ZONE SHALL BE
 10 ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA STRATEGIC COMPACT; AND FOR
 11 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** This act may be cited as the "Mississippi River
 14 Delta Promise Zone Act of 2018."

15 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Legislature finds that rural
 16 development, through the creation of jobs, will enhance community
 17 development and raise educational attainment.

18 (2) The Legislature further finds that the state should
 19 foster open communication between government and the private
 20 sectors of our economy in the Mississippi River Delta Region, and
 21 that the state should provide a policy, a vision and a framework



22 to encourage an environment conducive to the revitalization and
23 growth of our state's Delta Region.

24 (3) The Legislature hereby declares that the public policy
25 of this state requires an overall, comprehensive and coordinated
26 plan for maximum and accelerated revitalization of the Mississippi
27 Delta Region.

28 **SECTION 3.** (1) For purposes of this act, the Mississippi
29 River Delta Promise Zone, which may be hereinafter referred to as
30 the Promise Zone, shall be composed, in whole or in part, of the
31 counties of Adams, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Holmes,
32 Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leflore, Panola, Quitman,
33 Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington and
34 Yazoo.

35 (2) The Promise Zone, which is a rural development
36 initiative, shall revitalize the Mississippi Delta Region through
37 the creating of jobs, increasing public/private investment,
38 enhancing community development and raising educational
39 attainment.

40 (3) The Promise Zone shall utilize a regional approach to
41 develop opportunities, offer new federal, state and local
42 incentives for development.

43 (4) To create a better economic climate and increase
44 opportunities for development, the Promise Zone shall utilize
45 resource generated from the region to leverage other investments.



46 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Mississippi Development Authority shall
47 develop new strategies for the economically challenged areas in
48 the Delta Region that will increase business activities for the
49 Promise Zone.

50 (2) The Promise Zone shall be governed by a board that is
51 composed of individuals from the following entities, but not
52 limited to such entities:

- 53 (a) College and universities;
- 54 (b) Counties and municipalities;
- 55 (c) Local and regional development organizations;
- 56 (d) Banking and finance;
- 57 (e) Small business owners; and
- 58 (f) Entities that encourage innovation and achievement.

59 (3) The Promise Zone shall be administered by the
60 Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact, which is a 501(c)(3), whose
61 primary goal is to implement the mandate from the Legislature to
62 begin a region-wide process to revitalize the Mississippi Delta
63 Region, and whose further goal is to implement the 2009 action
64 plan submitted by the Delta Revitalization Task Force, as required
65 by the State Legislature.

66 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2018.

