

By: Representative Hines

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 112

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; TO CREATE
 11 THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA DEVELOPMENT FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES IN
 12 THE FUND SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA STRATEGIC
 13 COMPACT FOR USE BY THE COMPACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS
 14 TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
 15 DELTA PROMISE ZONE ACT OF 2018; TO AMEND SECTION 75-76-129,
 16 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIVERSION OF A
 17 PORTION OF THE STATE GAMING REVENUES TO THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
 18 DEVELOPMENT FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act may be cited as
 21 the "Mississippi River Delta Promise Zone Act of 2018."

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

25 (2) The Legislature further finds that the state should
 26 foster open communication between government and the private



27 sectors of our economy in the Mississippi River Delta Region, and
28 that the state should provide a policy, a vision and a framework
29 to encourage an environment conducive to the revitalization and
30 growth of our state's Delta Region.

31 (3) The Legislature hereby declares that the public policy
32 of this state requires an overall, comprehensive and coordinated
33 plan for maximum and accelerated revitalization of the Mississippi
34 Delta Region.

35 **SECTION 3.** (1) For purposes of Sections 1 through 4 of this
36 act, the Mississippi River Delta Promise Zone, which may be
37 hereinafter referred to as the Promise Zone, shall be composed, in
38 whole or in part, of the counties of Adams, Bolivar, Carroll,
39 Claiborne, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson,
40 Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie,
41 Tunica, Warren, Washington and Yazoo.

42 (2) The Promise Zone, which is a rural development
43 initiative, shall revitalize the Mississippi Delta Region through
44 the creating of jobs, increasing public/private investment,
45 enhancing community development and raising educational
46 attainment.

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



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

53 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Mississippi Development Authority shall
54 develop new strategies for the economically challenged areas in
55 the Delta Region that will increase business activities for the
56 Promise Zone.

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

- 60 (a) College and universities;
- 61 (b) Counties and municipalities;
- 62 (c) Local and regional development organizations;
- 63 (d) Banking and finance;
- 64 (e) Small business owners; and
- 65 (f) Entities that encourage innovation and achievement.

66 (3) The Promise Zone shall be administered by the
67 Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact, which is a 501(c)(3), whose
68 primary goal is to implement the mandate from the Legislature to
69 begin a region-wide process to revitalize the Mississippi Delta
70 Region, and whose further goal is to implement the 2009 action
71 plan submitted by the Delta Revitalization Task Force, as required
72 by the Legislature.

73 (4) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
74 be designated as the "Mississippi Delta Development Fund." The



75 fund shall consist of such monies deposited therein as provided
76 under Section 75-76-129 and funds from any other source designated
77 for deposit into such fund. Monies in the fund shall be
78 disbursed, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the
79 Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact for use by the compact for the
80 purpose of providing funds to assist in carrying out the purposes
81 of Sections 1 through 4 of this act. Unexpended amounts remaining
82 in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the
83 State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment earnings
84 on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the
85 fund.

86 **SECTION 5.** Section 75-76-129, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
87 amended as follows:

88 **[From and after January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016,**
89 **this section shall read as follows:]**

90 75-76-129. On or before the last day of each month, all
91 taxes, fees, interest, penalties, damages, fines or other monies
92 collected by the Department of Revenue during that month under the
93 provisions of this chapter, with the exception of (a) the local
94 government fees imposed under Section 75-76-195, (b) an amount
95 equal to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) shall be paid by
96 the Department of Revenue to the State Treasurer to be deposited
97 in the State General Fund. The local government fees shall be
98 distributed by the Department of Revenue pursuant to Section
99 75-76-197. An amount equal to Two Million Three Hundred



100 Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$2,375,000.00) of the revenue
101 collected during that month pursuant to the fee imposed under
102 Section 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of
103 Revenue into the bond sinking fund created in Section 1(3) of
104 Chapter 479, Laws of 2015. An amount equal to Five Hundred
105 Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) of the revenue collected during
106 that month pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
107 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of Revenue
108 into the 2015-2016 City of Gulfport Aquarium Construction Fund
109 created in Section 2 of Chapter 479, Laws of 2015. An amount
110 equal to Forty-one Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-three Dollars
111 (\$41,663.00) of the revenue collected during that month pursuant
112 to the fee imposed under Section 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be
113 deposited by the Department of Revenue into the 2015 Vicksburg
114 Interpretive Center, Catfish Row Museum Construction Fund created
115 in Section 3 of Chapter 479, Laws of 2015. An amount equal to
116 Eighty-three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-four Dollars
117 (\$83,334.00) of the revenue collected during that month pursuant
118 to the fee imposed under Section 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be
119 deposited by the Department of Revenue into the 2015 E.E. Bass
120 Cultural Arts Center Fund created in Section 4 of Chapter 479,
121 Laws of 2015.

122 **[From and after January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017,**
123 **this section shall read as follows:]**



124 75-76-129. On or before the last day of each month all
125 taxes, fees, interest, penalties, damages, fines or other monies
126 collected by the Department of Revenue during that month under the
127 provisions of this chapter, with the exception of (a) the local
128 government fees imposed under Section 75-76-195, and (b) an amount
129 equal to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of the revenue
130 collected pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
131 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be paid by the Department of Revenue to the
132 State Treasurer to be deposited in the State General Fund. The
133 local government fees shall be distributed by the Department of
134 Revenue pursuant to Section 75-76-197. An amount equal to Two
135 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) of the
136 revenue collected during that month pursuant to the fee imposed
137 under Section 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department
138 of Revenue into the bond sinking fund created in Section 1(3) of
139 Chapter 479, Laws of 2015. An amount equal to Five Hundred
140 Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) of the revenue collected during
141 that month pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
142 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of Revenue
143 into the 2015-2016 City of Gulfport Aquarium Construction Fund
144 created in Section 2 of Chapter 479, Laws of 2015.

145 **[From and after January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2018, this**
146 **section shall read as follows:]**

147 75-76-129. On or before the last day of each month all
148 taxes, fees, interest, penalties, damages, fines or other monies



149 collected by the Department of Revenue during that month under the
150 provisions of this chapter, with the exception of (a) the local
151 government fees imposed under Section 75-76-195, and (b) an amount
152 equal to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of the revenue
153 collected pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
154 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be paid by the Department of Revenue to the
155 State Treasurer to be deposited in the State General Fund. The
156 local government fees shall be distributed by the Department of
157 Revenue pursuant to Section 75-76-197. An amount equal to Three
158 Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of the revenue collected during
159 that month pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
160 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of Revenue
161 into the bond sinking fund created in Section 1(3) of Chapter 479,
162 Laws of 2015.

163 **[From and after July 1, 2018, this section shall read as**
164 **follows:]**

165 75-76-129. On or before the last day of each month all
166 taxes, fees, interest, penalties, damages, fines or other monies
167 collected by the Department of Revenue during that month under the
168 provisions of this chapter, with the exception of (a) the local
169 government fees imposed under Section 75-76-195, (b) an amount
170 equal to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of the revenue
171 collected pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
172 75-76-177(1)(c) and (c) an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of
173 the revenue collected pursuant to the fee imposed under Section



174 75-76-177(1)(c), shall be paid by the Department of Revenue to the
175 State Treasurer to be deposited in the State General Fund. The
176 local government fees shall be distributed by the Department of
177 Revenue pursuant to Section 75-76-197. An amount equal to Three
178 Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of the revenue collected during
179 that month pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
180 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of Revenue
181 into the bond sinking fund created in Section 1(3) of Chapter 479,
182 Laws of 2015. An amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the revenue
183 collected pursuant to the fee imposed under Section
184 75-76-177(1)(c) shall be deposited by the Department of Revenue
185 into the Mississippi Delta Development Fund created in Section 4
186 of this act.

187 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
188 and after July 1, 2018.

