

By: Representative Clark

To: Public Property;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 187

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE
2 KNOWN AS THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUND
3 SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
4 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS TO COUNTIES FOR THE MAINTENANCE
5 AND/OR RESTORATION OF HISTORIC COURTHOUSES IN MISSISSIPPI AS
6 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE
7 A GRANT FROM THE FUND, A COUNTY MUST PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN THE
8 AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE GRANT; TO AUTHORIZE THE
9 DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT GIFTS AND ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE FUND, AND
10 TO SELL DONATED PROPERTY AND DEPOSIT THE PROCEEDS IN THE FUND; TO
11 AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE, TRANSFER OR OTHERWISE
12 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS
13 DEPOSITED IN THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE FUND SHALL BE EXPENDED, UPON
14 APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
15 AND HISTORY AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created in the State Treasury a
18 special fund to be known as the "Historic Courthouse Fund." The
19 fund shall be administered by the Department of Archives and
20 History for the purpose of making grants to counties for the
21 maintenance and/or restoration of historic courthouses in
22 Mississippi as determined by the department. In order to receive
23 a grant from the fund, a county must provide matching funds in the
24 amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant.



25 (2) The Department of Archives and History may solicit and
26 accept donations, bequests, devises, gifts and grants of money
27 from individuals, organizations, and corporations to be deposited
28 in the Historic Courthouse Fund. In addition, the department may
29 solicit and accept donations, bequests, devises, gifts and grants
30 of real and personal property, and the board of trustees of the
31 department, in its discretion, may sell the property by public or
32 private sale and shall deposit proceeds derived from the sale into
33 the fund. The Legislature may appropriate, transfer or otherwise
34 provide additional funds for the fund.

35 (3) The State Treasurer shall invest all monies in the
36 Historic Courthouse Fund as other state funds are authorized to be
37 invested. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of
38 a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
39 interest earned on the unexpended amounts in the fund shall be
40 deposited to the credit of the fund.

41 (4) All funds deposited in the Historic Courthouse Fund
42 shall be expended, upon appropriation by the Legislature, by the
43 Department of Archives and History for the purpose of making
44 grants to counties for the maintenance and/or restoration of
45 historic courthouses in Mississippi as determined by the
46 department.

47 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2018.

