

By: Representatives Mims, Cockerham, Johnson  
(94th), Mangold, Pigott, Middleton

To: Local and Private  
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1525

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCENIC RIVERS  
2 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ALLIANCE (SRDA ALLIANCE); TO PROVIDE THE  
3 ENTITIES THAT SHALL COMPRISE THE SRDA ALLIANCE; TO PROVIDE THE  
4 POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUCH ALLIANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The words and phrases shall have the following  
7 meanings under this act:

8 (a) "Alliance" means an alliance between the Board of  
9 Supervisors of Pike, Amite, Walthall and Franklin Counties, the  
10 Board of Mayor and Selectmen of the City of McComb, the Board of  
11 Wilkinson County Industrial Development Authority and the Trustees  
12 of the Pike County Economic Development District; and any  
13 additional members duly approved by unanimous consent of the  
14 Alliance members at the request for membership is made; and

15 (b) "SRDA" means Scenic Rivers Development Alliance.

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Boards of Supervisors of Pike, Amite,  
17 Walthall and Franklin Counties, the Board of Mayor and Selectmen  
18 of the City of McComb, the Board of Wilkinson County Industrial  
19 Development Authority and the Trustees of the Pike County Economic



20 Development District, in their discretion, may, by order duly  
21 entered on their respective minutes, establish the Scenic Rivers  
22 Development Alliance (SRDA), also referred to as the "Alliance"  
23 under this act, for purposes of securing and furthering industrial  
24 and commercial development, management of recreational facilities  
25 and promoting the use of natural resources and possibilities of  
26 the Alliance.

27 (2) All monies collected for the support and maintenance of  
28 the SRDA shall be placed in the Scenic Rivers Development Alliance  
29 Economic Development Fund and shall be expended as other public  
30 funds are expended, and in which event the employees of SRDA  
31 shall be employees of such Alliance and considered as such.

32 (3) The SRDA may accept gifts, gratuities and donations from  
33 municipalities and counties in the Alliance and from any persons,  
34 firms or corporations desiring to make such donations. Such  
35 appropriation, gift or donation shall also be placed in the Scenic  
36 Rivers Development Alliance Economic Development Fund and be  
37 expended in the support and maintenance of the SRDA.

38 (4) At the option of the members of the Alliance, they may  
39 provide for the management of the SRDA by appointing not more than  
40 two (2) trustees per participating county, municipality or member  
41 agency who shall be qualified electors residing within the SRDA,  
42 to manage the affairs of the SRDA, and in which event the funds  
43 made available by the Alliance members for the support and  
44 maintenance of such Alliance may be expended by a majority vote of



45 such trustees so appointed to manage the Alliance. The Alliance  
46 board of trustees may also appoint up to two (2) at-large trustees  
47 to serve on the Alliance board who shall also be qualified  
48 electors residing within the SRDA. Each trustee who is an officer  
49 of the Alliance shall qualify by giving bond, with sufficient  
50 surety, to be payable, conditioned and approved as provided by  
51 law, in a penalty equal to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00),  
52 the premiums on all such surety bonds being paid by such Alliance.  
53 If this option is exercised, the trustees of the Alliance shall  
54 not be considered as employees of the county for state retirement  
55 or any other purposes.

56 (5) All funds secured and expended under the provisions of  
57 this act shall be public funds and the Auditor of Public Accounts  
58 of the State of Mississippi shall audit the same as other public  
59 funds are now audited.

60 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the  
61 contrary, the boards of supervisors of the counties in the  
62 Alliance established under this act and the governing authorities  
63 of any municipality located within the Alliance in such county may  
64 enter into a contract providing for the contribution of funds by  
65 the municipality or other local and private economic development  
66 groups to the Alliance and providing for the appointment by the  
67 municipal governing authorities or other local and private  
68 economic development groups of a number of trustees, as determined  
69 by the parties to the contract, to assist in the management of the



70 Alliance. In like manner, any economic or industrial development  
71 foundation or private economic development group may enter into a  
72 contract with the board of supervisors of the county or jointly  
73 with the board of supervisors of the county and municipal  
74 governing authorities providing for the contribution of funds by  
75 the economic or industrial development foundation or private  
76 economic development group to the Alliance and providing for the  
77 appointment by the officials or governing board of the foundation  
78 of a number of trustees, as determined by the parties to the  
79 contract, to assist in the management of the Alliance.

80 (7) The Alliance may, when suitable office space is not  
81 otherwise available, purchase and acquire title to real estate  
82 within the Alliance and make any improvements thereon to provide  
83 the office space it considers necessary for efficient operation of  
84 the SRDA. Provided, however, that no contract or agreement for  
85 the exclusive listing, sale or representation for sale of publicly  
86 owned property shall be entered into by the Alliance with any real  
87 estate broker or brokers.

88 (8) (a) The SRDA shall have the authority to acquire by  
89 gift, purchase or otherwise, and to own, hold, maintain, control  
90 and develop real estate situated within the county or counties  
91 comprising such Alliance for the development, use and operation of  
92 industrial parks, recreation, natural resources development,  
93 tourism or other economic development purposes. The Alliance is  
94 further authorized and empowered to engage in works of internal



95 improvement, therefor including, but not limited to, construction  
96 or contracting for the construction of streets, roads, railroads,  
97 spur tracks, site improvements, water, sewage, drainage,  
98 pollution control and other related facilities necessary or  
99 required for economic development purposes or the development of  
100 industrial park complexes, recreation facilities, and natural  
101 resource improvements; to acquire, purchase, install, lease,  
102 construct, own, hold, equip, control, maintain, use, operate and  
103 repair other structures and facilities necessary and convenient  
104 for the planning, development, use, operation and maintenance of  
105 an industrial park or parks or recreation facilities or for other  
106 economic development purposes, including, but not limited to,  
107 utility installations, purchase of property, elevators,  
108 compressors, warehouses, buildings and air, rail and other  
109 transportation terminals and pollution control facilities.

110 (b) Contracts for the construction, improvement,  
111 equipping or furnishing of an industrial site, recreation  
112 facilities and improvements thereon as authorized in this act  
113 shall be entered into upon the basis of public bidding under  
114 Section 31-7-1 et seq.

115 (9) For the development of projects, a municipal board or  
116 the boards of supervisors of any counties comprising the SRDA,  
117 may, upon receipt of a resolution duly adopted by the trustees of  
118 SRDA, issue, secure and manage its bonds in the manner prescribed  
119 by Sections 19-9-5, 19-9-7, 19-9-9, 19-9-11, 19-9-13, 19-9-15,



120 19-9-17, 19-9-19, 19-9-21, 19-9-23, 19-9-25 and 19-9-29. Such  
121 bonds shall be sold in accordance with the provisions of Section  
122 31-19-25. The full faith, credit and resources of the county  
123 shall be irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of  
124 and interest on the bonds issued under this section. Any income  
125 derived from the sale or lease of the property authorized to be  
126 acquired under this act shall be applied in one or more of the  
127 following manners: (a) the retirement of bonds authorized to be  
128 issued under this act; (b) further improvement or development of  
129 such industrial parks, recreation facilities or other related  
130 economic development activities; or (c) payment into the general  
131 fund of the SRDA to be used for any lawful purpose. Any amounts  
132 so paid into the general fund shall be included in the computation  
133 of total receipts and subject to the restrictions of Section  
134 27-39-321. The municipal board or board of supervisors may  
135 covenant with or for the benefit of the registered owners of any  
136 bonds issued under this section with respect to the application of  
137 any or all of such income and shall, by resolution adopted before  
138 or promptly after receipt of any such income, determine, in its  
139 discretion, subject only to the restrictions set forth above and  
140 any covenants made to or for the benefit of any registered owners  
141 of bonds issued under this section, the manner in which such  
142 income shall be applied.

143 The bonds authorized by this act and the income therefrom  
144 shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of Mississippi;



145 however, any lessee or purchaser shall not be exempt from ad  
146 valorem taxes on industrial sites, recreational facilities and  
147 improvements thereon unless otherwise provided by the general laws  
148 of this state, and purchases required to establish the project and  
149 financed by bond proceeds shall not be exempt from taxation in the  
150 State of Mississippi.

151 (10) The Scenic Rivers Development Alliance is further  
152 authorized and empowered:

153 (a) To sell, lease, trade, exchange or otherwise  
154 dispose of industrial sites, recreational facilities, commercial  
155 developments or rail lines situated within industrial parks to  
156 individuals, firms or corporations, public or private, for similar  
157 use upon such terms and conditions, and for such considerations,  
158 with such safeguards as will best promote and protect the public  
159 interest, convenience and necessity, and to execute deeds, leases,  
160 contracts, easements and other legal instruments necessary or  
161 convenient therefor. Any industrial lease may be executed by the  
162 Alliance upon such terms and conditions and for such monetary  
163 rental or other considerations as may be found to be in the best  
164 interest of the public, upon an order or resolution being spread  
165 upon the minutes of the Alliance authorizing same.

166 (b) To sue and be sued in its own name. Scenic Rivers  
167 Development Alliance as a political subdivision of the state is  
168 covered by the Mississippi Torts Claim Act as prescribed under  
169 Section 11-46-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.



170           (c) To fix and prescribe fees, charges and rates for  
171 the use of any water, sewage, pollution control or other  
172 facilities constructed and operated in connection with an  
173 industrial park or parks, recreational facilities, commercial  
174 development and to collect same from persons, firms and  
175 corporations using the same for industrial, warehouse, commercial  
176 and related purposes and are further empowered to deny or  
177 terminate such services for nonpayment of the fees, charges or  
178 rates by the users of such services.

179           (d) To employ engineers, attorneys, accountants,  
180 consultants, licensed real estate brokers and appraisers, and such  
181 executive and administrative personnel as shall be reasonably  
182 necessary to carry out the duties and authority authorized by this  
183 section with funds available for such purposes. The Alliance may  
184 also contribute monies directly to the development and cost of  
185 operation of any industrial development foundation or other  
186 private economic development group in the Alliance.

187           (11) Any municipal board or county board of supervisors  
188 authorized to issue bonds under this act is hereby authorized,  
189 either separately or jointly with the governing authority of any  
190 municipality within the county, to acquire, enlarge, expand,  
191 renovate or improve an existing building or buildings located in  
192 the county or municipality and to issue bonds for such purpose in  
193 the manner provided by this act.





194           (12) The enumeration of any specific rights and powers  
195 contained in this act where followed by general powers shall not  
196 be construed in a restrictive sense, but rather in as broad and  
197 comprehensive a sense as possible to effectuate the purposes of  
198 this act.

199           (13) The Scenic Rivers Development Alliance shall be  
200 considered a political subdivision for purposes of this act and  
201 upon submission of a plan that is approved by the board of  
202 trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), as  
203 required under Section 25-11-105(f), Mississippi Code of 1972, the  
204 SRDA employees shall be considered as employees of the state for  
205 retirement through PERS and for any other purposes.

206           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
207 and after its passage.

