

By: Representatives Brown (20th), Anderson
(110th), Hudson, Stamps

To: Conservation and Water
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1154

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY,
2 DESIGNATED AS THE "MISSISSIPPI OUTDOORS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
3 FUND"; TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
4 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS AND THAT
5 THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SOLICIT AND ACCEPT DONATIONS,
6 GIFTS AND GRANTS OF FUNDS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES FOR DEPOSIT INTO
7 THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES IN THE SPECIAL FUND MAY BE USED
8 BY THE DEPARTMENT, UPON APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE, FOR THE
9 PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS TO PRIVATE ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF
10 ASSISTING WITH THE PROMOTION, SUPPORT AND ENHANCEMENT OF STATE AND
11 PRIVATE PARKS AND TRAILS AND RELATED PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES,
12 OUTDOOR RECREATION AND SPORTING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, WILDLIFE
13 AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS,
14 ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS AND OUTDOOR AND RECREATIONAL RELATED
15 TOURISM AND RELATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR RELATED
16 PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) There is created in the State Treasury
19 a special fund to be designated as the "Mississippi Outdoors and
20 Natural Resources Fund." The fund shall consist of monies
21 deposited therein under this section and monies from any other
22 source designated for deposit into such fund. The fund shall be
23 administered by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries
24 and Parks (hereinafter referred to as "department") and the
25 department is authorized to solicit and accept donations, gifts



26 and grants of funds from private sources for deposit into the
27 fund. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a
28 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
29 interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund
30 shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

31 (b) Monies in the fund shall be used by the department,
32 upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of making
33 grants as authorized in subsection (2) of this section.

34 (c) Monies in the fund may not be used, expended or
35 transferred for any other purpose except upon amendment to this
36 section by a bill enacted by the Legislature with a vote of not
37 less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house present
38 and voting.

39 (2) The department shall establish a program to make grants
40 to private entities for the purpose of assisting with the
41 promotion, support and enhancement of: (a) state parks and trails
42 and related properties and facilities, (b) private parks and
43 trails and related properties and facilities, (c) outdoor
44 recreation and sporting programs and activities, (d) wildlife and
45 natural resource conservation and preservation programs,
46 activities, and projects, including acquisition of and
47 improvements to land related to such purposes and (e) outdoor and
48 recreational related tourism and related economic development. An
49 entity may apply to the department for a grant under this section
50 in the manner provided for in this section.



51 (3) An entity desiring a grant under this section must
52 submit an application to the department. The application must
53 include a description of the project for which the grant is
54 requested, the cost of the project for which the grant is
55 requested, the amount of the grant requested and any other
56 information required by the department.

57 (4) The department shall have all powers necessary to
58 implement and administer the program established under this
59 section, and the department shall promulgate rules and
60 regulations, in accordance with the Mississippi Administrative
61 Procedures Law, necessary for the implementation of this section.

62 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
63 and after July 1, 2021.

