

By: Senator(s) Thomas

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2321

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE WEST MISSISSIPPI INCUBATOR GRANT  
 2 PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
 3 AND ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
 4 DISTRICTS AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN HUMPHREYS, MADISON, SHARKEY,  
 5 SUNFLOWER, WASHINGTON AND YAZOO COUNTIES; TO SET FORTH THE PURPOSE  
 6 OF THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Development Authority is  
 9 hereby authorized to establish the West Central Mississippi  
 10 Incubator Grant Program, which shall be a collaborative  
 11 partnership with the Mississippi Department of Finance and  
 12 Administration's Office of Surplus Property, the Mississippi  
 13 Association of Cooperatives, the Humphreys County Board of  
 14 Supervisors, the Madison County Board of Supervisors, the Sharkey  
 15 County Board of Supervisors, the Sunflower County Board of  
 16 Supervisors, the Washington County Board of Supervisors, the Yazoo  
 17 County Board of Supervisors, the Belzoni-Humphreys Development  
 18 Foundation, the Madison County Economic Development Authority, the  
 19 Sunflower County Economic Development District, the Washington  
 20 County Economic Alliance, the South Delta Planning and Development



21 District and the Central Mississippi Planning and Development  
22 District. The Mississippi Development Authority, along with each  
23 entity specified above, shall act as a planning council to  
24 establish the West Central Mississippi Incubator Grant Program,  
25 which will be an entrepreneurship program to grow new businesses  
26 and micro-enterprises in West Central Mississippi.

27 (2) The purpose of the West Central Mississippi Incubator  
28 Grant Program shall be to assist the development of new businesses  
29 in West Central Mississippi, through assistance and access to  
30 resources provided through the entities named in subsection (1) of  
31 this section. Services will include shared office space,  
32 utilities and equipment, reduced rents, access to technical and  
33 business personnel, building security and janitorial services,  
34 on-site office support and management assistance. Graduates of  
35 the incubator program will create more jobs and strengthen the  
36 local economy in the West Central Mississippi region. Funds and  
37 resources are to be provided for the establishment of one (1)  
38 incubator in each of the following counties, the location of which  
39 is to be determined by the Mississippi Development Authority in  
40 consultation with the entities named in subsection (1) of this  
41 section: Humphreys, Madison, Sharkey, Sunflower, Washington and  
42 Yazoo.

43 (3) The West Central Mississippi Incubator Grant Program  
44 will be under the administrative oversight of the Mississippi  
45 Development Authority, which is authorized to enter into contracts



46 for the operation of the incubator and to receive and expend funds  
47 for the support of the incubator from public and private sources.

48         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2024.

