

By: Representative Clark

To: Public Property;  
Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 506

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; TO  
6 PROVIDE THAT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE FUND, A COUNTY  
7 MUST PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT  
8 OF THE GRANT; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT GIFTS AND  
9 ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE FUND, AND TO SELL DONATED PROPERTY AND  
10 DEPOSIT THE PROCEEDS IN THE FUND; TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO  
11 APPROPRIATE, TRANSFER OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR  
12 THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS DEPOSITED IN THE HISTORIC  
13 COURTHOUSE FUND SHALL BE EXPENDED, UPON APPROPRIATION BY THE  
14 LEGISLATURE, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AS PROVIDED  
15 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 Department of Archives and History shall administer the fund for  
20 the purpose of making grants to counties for the maintenance  
21 and/or restoration of historic courthouses in Mississippi, as  
22 determined by the department. In order to receive a grant from  
23 the fund, a county must provide matching funds in the amount of  
24 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 in the fund at the end of a fiscal  
38 year must remain in the fund and not lapse into the State General  
39 Fund, and any interest earned on the unexpended amounts in the  
40 fund must be deposited to the credit of the fund.

41           (4) All funds deposited in the Historic Courthouse Fund must  
42 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, 2025.

