

By: Representative Lamar

To: Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 918

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 39-5-145, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY HERITAGE  
3 PRESERVATION GRANT FUND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND  
4 ADMINISTRATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 39-5-145, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 39-5-145. (1) A special fund, to be designated the  
10 "Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant Fund," is  
11 created within the State Treasury. The fund shall be maintained  
12 by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate  
13 and apart from the General Fund of the state. The fund shall  
14 consist of any monies designated for deposit therein from any  
15 source, including proceeds of any state general obligation bonds  
16 designated for deposit therein. Unexpended amounts remaining in  
17 the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the  
18 State General Fund and any interest earned or investment earnings  
19 on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into the fund. The



20 expenditure of monies deposited into the fund shall be under the  
21 direction of the \* \* \* Department of Archives and History, based  
22 upon recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Department of  
23 Archives and History, and such funds shall be paid by the State  
24 Treasurer upon warrants issued by the Department of Finance and  
25 Administration. Monies deposited into such fund shall be  
26 allocated and disbursed according to the provisions of this  
27 section. If any monies in the special fund are derived from  
28 proceeds of state general obligation bonds and are not used within  
29 four (4) years after the date such bond proceeds are deposited  
30 into the special fund, then the \* \* \* Department of Archives and  
31 History shall provide an accounting of such unused monies to the  
32 State Bond Commission.

33 (2) Monies deposited into the fund shall be allocated and  
34 disbursed as follows:

35 (a) (i) Sixty-one Million Fifty Thousand Dollars  
36 (\$61,050,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grants on a  
37 reimbursable basis through the \* \* \* Department of Archives and  
38 History, based upon the recommendations of the Board of Trustees  
39 of the Department of Archives and History, to assist county  
40 governments, municipal governments, school districts,  
41 universities, community colleges, state agencies and nonprofit  
42 organizations that have obtained Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt  
43 status from the United States Internal Revenue Service in helping  
44 pay the costs incurred in preserving, restoring, rehabilitating,



45 repairing or interpreting: 1. historic county courthouses \* \* \* ;  
46 2. historic school buildings \* \* \* ; and/or 3. other historic  
47 properties identified by certified local governments or owned by  
48 the State of Mississippi. Where possible, expenditures from the  
49 fund shall be used to match federal grants or other grants that  
50 may be accessed by the Department of Archives and History, other  
51 state agencies, county governments or municipal governments,  
52 school districts or nonprofit organizations that have obtained  
53 Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the United States  
54 Internal Revenue Service. Any properties, except those described  
55 in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this subsection, receiving monies  
56 pursuant to this section must be designated as "Mississippi  
57 Landmark" properties prior to selection as projects for funding  
58 under the provisions of this section.

59 (ii) One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand  
60 Dollars (\$1,750,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grants  
61 through the \* \* \* Department of Archives and History, based upon  
62 the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Department of  
63 Archives and History, to assist county governments in helping pay  
64 the costs of historically appropriate restoration, repair and  
65 renovation of historically significant county courthouses. Grants  
66 to individual courthouses under this paragraph (a)(ii) shall not  
67 exceed Eight Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$875,000.00).

68 (b) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00)  
69 shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the Amory



70 Regional Museum in Amory, Mississippi, to pay the costs of capital  
71 improvements, repair, renovation, furnishing and/or equipping of  
72 the museum. The \* \* \* Department of Archives and History is  
73 directed to transfer Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
74 (\$250,000.00) from the fund to the city on or before December 31,  
75 2004, and the city shall place the funds into an escrow account.  
76 The city may expend the funds from the account only in an amount  
77 equal to matching funds that are provided from any source other  
78 than the state for the project. As the funds are withdrawn from  
79 the escrow account, the city shall certify to the \* \* \* Department  
80 of Archives and History the amount of the funds that have been  
81 withdrawn and that the funds withdrawn are in an amount equal to  
82 matching funds required by this paragraph.

83 (c) One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be  
84 allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the Jacinto Foundation,  
85 Inc., to pay the costs of capital improvements, repairing,  
86 renovating, restoring, rehabilitating, preserving, furnishing  
87 and/or equipping the courthouse and related facilities in Jacinto,  
88 Mississippi, and to pay the costs of capital improvements,  
89 repairing, renovating, restoring, rehabilitating, preserving,  
90 furnishing and/or equipping other buildings and facilities near  
91 the courthouse.

92 (d) Four Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars  
93 (\$425,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to  
94 the Oxford-Lafayette County Heritage Foundation to pay the costs



of capital improvements, repairing, renovating, restoring, rehabilitating, preserving, furnishing, equipping and/or acquiring the LQC Lamar Home in Oxford, Mississippi.

(e) One Million Four Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$1,425,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the City of Columbus, Mississippi, to assist in paying the costs associated with repair, renovation and restoration of the Columbus City Hall building and related facilities.

(f) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the Town of Wesson, Mississippi, to pay the costs of restoration and renovation of the Old Wesson School.

(g) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the Town of Shubuta, Mississippi, to assist in paying the costs associated with construction, reconstruction, refurbishing, repair, renovation and restoration of the Shubuta Town Hall building and related facilities.

(h) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the City of Okolona, Mississippi, to assist in paying costs associated with the purchase, repair, renovation, furnishing and equipping of a building and related facilities on Main Street in the City of Okolona, for the purpose of establishing a welcome center in which historical information relating to the City of Okolona will be



displayed, including, but not limited to \* \* \* : information relating to the furniture, banking, retail and farming industries; education; historical collections owned by individuals and organizations; genealogy; Okolona College; and the Battle of Okolona and the War Between the States.

(i) One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, to assist in paying the costs associated with repair, renovation and restoration of the Tallahatchie County Courthouse.

(j) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to Wayne County, Mississippi, to assist in paying the costs associated with repair, renovation and restoration of the Wayne County Courthouse.

(k) Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to assist in paying the cost of rehabilitation and restoration of Winterville Indian Mounds in Washington County, Mississippi.

(l) Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) shall be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to the City of Kosciusko, to assist the City of Kosciusko, Mississippi, in paying costs associated with: (i) repair, renovation, furnishing, equipping, additions to and expansion of the Kosciusko Natchez Trace Visitor Center in the City of Kosciusko, Mississippi \* \* \* ; and (ii) repair, renovation, furnishing, equipping, additions to



and expansion of the historic Strand Theater in the City of  
Kosciusko, Mississippi.

(m) One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be  
allocated and disbursed as grant funds to Jefferson County,  
Mississippi, to assist in paying costs associated with repair,  
renovation, upgrades and improvements to the confederate cemetery  
and related properties and facilities in the county.

(n) Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) shall  
be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to Tate County,  
Mississippi, to assist in paying costs associated with painting,  
refurbishment and historical restoration and renovation of the  
Tate County Courthouse.

(o) Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) shall  
be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to Humphreys County,  
Mississippi, to assist in paying costs associated with repair and  
renovation of and upgrades and improvements to the Humphreys  
County Courthouse.

(p) One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) of  
any monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2023 shall  
be allocated and disbursed as grant funds to assist in paying the  
costs associated with relocation, repair, renovation and  
restoration of a one-room school building and related facilities  
including costs incurred before July 1, 2022, and such grant funds  
shall not be subject to any requirement for matching funds.



(q) Monies in the Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant Fund which are derived from proceeds of state general obligation bonds may be used to reimburse reasonable actual and necessary costs incurred by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in providing assistance directly related to a project described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for which funding is provided under this section. Reimbursement may be made only until such time as the project is completed. An accounting of actual costs incurred for which reimbursement is sought shall be maintained for each project by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Reimbursement of reasonable actual and necessary costs for a project shall not exceed three percent (3%) of the proceeds of bonds issued for such project. Monies authorized for a particular project may not be used to reimburse administrative costs for unrelated projects.

(3) (a) The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History shall receive and consider proposals from county governments, municipal governments, school districts, universities, community colleges, state agencies and nonprofit organizations that have obtained Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the United States Internal Revenue Service for projects associated with the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, repair or interpretation of: (i) historic courthouses \* \* \* ; (ii) historic school buildings \* \* \* ; and/or (iii) other historic properties identified by certified local





193 governments. Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the  
194 provisions of procedures, criteria and standards developed by the  
195 board. The board shall determine those projects to be funded and  
196 may require matching funds from any applicant seeking assistance  
197 under this section. This subsection shall not apply to projects  
198 described in subsection (2)(a)(ii), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(d),  
199 (2)(e), (2)(f), (2)(g), (2)(h) and (2)(j) of this section.

200 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives  
201 and History shall receive and consider proposals from county  
202 governments for projects associated with historically appropriate  
203 restoration, repair and renovation of historically significant  
204 county courthouses. Proposals shall be submitted in accordance  
205 with the provisions of procedures, criteria and standards  
206 developed by the board. The board shall determine those projects  
207 to be funded and may require matching funds from any applicant  
208 seeking assistance under this section. This subsection shall not  
209 apply to projects described in subsection (2)(a)(i), (2)(b),  
210 (2)(c), (2)(d), (2)(e) and (2)(f) of this section.

211 (4) The Department of Archives and History shall publicize  
212 the Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program described in  
213 this section on a statewide basis, including the publication of  
214 the criteria and standards used by the department in selecting  
215 projects for funding. The selection of a project for funding  
216 under the provisions of this section shall be made solely upon the  
217 deliberate consideration of each proposed project on its merits.



218 The board shall make every effort to award the grants in a manner  
219 that will fairly distribute the funds in regard to the geography  
220 and cultural diversity of the state. This subsection shall not  
221 apply to projects described in subsection (2) (b), (2) (c), (2) (d),  
222 (2) (e) and (2) (f) of this section.

223 (5) With regard to any project awarded funding under this  
224 section, any consultant, planner, architect, engineer, exhibit  
225 contracting firm, historic preservation specialist or other  
226 professional hired by a grant recipient to work on any such  
227 project shall be approved by the board before their employment by  
228 the grant recipient.

229 (6) Plans and specifications for all projects initiated  
230 under the provisions of this section shall be approved by the  
231 board before the awarding of any contracts. The plans and  
232 specifications for any work involving "Mississippi Landmark"  
233 properties shall be developed in accordance with "The Secretary of  
234 the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic  
235 Properties."

236 (7) The Department of Finance and Administration shall take  
237 those actions necessary to effectuate the transfer of monies in  
238 the fund to the Department of Archives and History.

239 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
240 and after July 1, 2025.

