

By: Senator(s) Jordan (18th)

To: Economic Dev, Tourism  
and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2890  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-1-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO  
3 EMPLOY LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND APPRAISERS NECESSARY FOR  
4 THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANY REAL ESTATE UNDER THE OWNERSHIP  
5 OR CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 57-1-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 57-1-55. (1) The Department of Economic and Community  
10 Development shall have the following general powers and duties:  
11 To develop and manage programs which enhance the climate for  
12 economic growth through assistance to private sector businesses,  
13 local communities and individuals, and through an extensive  
14 national and international marketing effort.

15 (2) The Department of Economic and Community Development  
16 shall have the following general powers and duties with respect to  
17 economic development:

18 (a) To plan, supervise and direct an active program of  
19 solicitation of industries to locate within the state;

20 (b) To prepare, maintain and disseminate information  
21 which is needed by companies in evaluating site locations;

22 (c) To consult with, advise and assist prospective  
23 industries wishing to locate within the state;

24 (d) To encourage new or expanding industries, which  
25 will add to the economy, to locate within the state;

26 (e) To maintain a coordinated liaison function with  
27 other development groups, including state and federal agencies,

28 and planning and development districts, utility companies,  
29 chambers of commerce and railroads;

30 (f) To assist communities and counties within the state  
31 in preparation for economic growth;

32 (g) To assist new and existing business and industry  
33 and encourage their development and expansion;

34 (h) To plan and conduct a nationwide advertising  
35 program promoting the state to prospective industry;

36 (i) To work with economic development agencies of the  
37 federal government in areas of industrial development and provide  
38 information to industrial prospects regarding the availability of  
39 federal funds and assistance;

40 (j) To work with the Department of Corrections,  
41 pursuant to the provisions of Section 47-5-501 et seq., in  
42 identifying and evaluating acceptable industries and businesses  
43 and in acting as an agent of the Department of Corrections by  
44 communicating with such concerns and aggressively soliciting their  
45 participation in the Correctional Industries Work Program;

46 (k) To perform related work as required;

47 (l) To disseminate information about financial and  
48 other programs of the Department of Economic and Community  
49 Development that will assist in the creation or expansion of  
50 industries processing wood products in this state;

51 (m) To market processed and raw agricultural products  
52 domestically and abroad; \* \* \*

53 (n) To aid in the establishment of business incubation  
54 centers by private business interests, not for profit  
55 corporations, and/or governmental entities. The department may  
56 provide funds by contract for the establishment of business  
57 incubation centers and may contract for space in which business  
58 incubation centers will be located. Business incubation centers  
59 are defined as facilities and support services that encourage the  
60 establishment of successful small businesses by providing a  
61 short-term sheltered environment. The department may solicit and  
62 accept grants and other financial aid or support from private or  
63 public sources to aid in the development of business incubation  
64 centers. In addition, advice and assistance to established

65 business incubation centers may be provided by the department; and  
66 (o) To employ licensed real estate brokers and  
67 appraisers necessary for the industrial development of any real  
68 estate under the ownership or control of the Department of  
69 Economic and Community Development.

70 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
71 and after its passage.