

By: Harden

To: Economic Dev, Tourism  
and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2297

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL  
2 HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT  
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL STUDY  
5 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE  
6 COUNTIES OF ADAMS, CLAIBORNE, HINDS, JEFFERSON, MADISON, RANKIN,  
7 WARREN AND WILKINSON; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES  
8 AND HISTORY SHALL SUBMIT A PLAN REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
9 SUCH DISTRICT TO THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF A  
11 TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH PLAN; TO GRANT THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CERTAIN POWERS  
13 WITH REGARD TO ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THE  
14 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS IN THIS STATE WHERE  
16 SUCH DISTRICTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND VIABLE; AND FOR RELATED  
17 PURPOSES.

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

19 SECTION 1. (1) The purpose of this act is to enact a pilot  
20 program to develop a regional cultural heritage tourism district  
21 program which shall be administered and staffed by the Department  
22 of Economic and Community Development.

23 (2) The regional cultural heritage tourism district pilot  
24 program shall include Adams, Claiborne, Hinds, Jefferson, Madison,  
25 Rankin, Warren and Wilkinson Counties.

26 SECTION 2. Within twelve (12) months after the effective  
27 date of this act, the Department of Economic and Community  
28 Development shall develop and submit to the Legislature a plan

29 that:

30 (a) Determines the need for a regional cultural  
31 heritage tourism district that includes the counties listed in  
32 Section 1(2) of this act;

33 (b) Specifies the goals and objectives for such  
34 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

35 (c) Provides an inventory of the significant cultural  
36 and historic resources in such regional cultural heritage tourism  
37 district;

38 (d) Identifies legal, regulatory and other constraints  
39 which must be overcome before meaningful cultural and historic  
40 development can occur;

41 (e) Describes current and potential educational,  
42 interpretative and recreational programs and projects concerning  
43 such regional cultural heritage tourism district;

44 (f) Provides market research to document the potential  
45 regional tourism and economic development opportunities resulting  
46 from the development of such regional cultural heritage tourism  
47 district;

48 (g) Provides an economic assessment of the long- and  
49 short-term costs and benefits related to the implementation of the  
50 plan, including an identification of expected sources of funding;

51 (h) Describes the specific cost effective techniques or  
52 methods for the long-term preservation and documentation of the  
53 significant cultural and historic resources in such regional  
54 cultural heritage tourism district;

55 (i) Describes the public and private organizational  
56 structure to be utilized for planning, development and management  
57 of such regional cultural heritage tourism district; and

58 (j) Provides strategies and a schedule for the  
59 planning, development and management of such regional cultural

60 heritage tourism district.

61       SECTION 3. For the purpose of reviewing the development of  
62 the plan for the regional cultural heritage tourism district,  
63 there shall be a task force that includes one (1) representative  
64 appointed by each of the following:

65           (a) The boards of supervisors of Adams, Claiborne,  
66 Hinds, Jefferson, Madison, Rankin, Warren and Wilkinson Counties;

67           (b) The mayors of each municipality in the proposed  
68 regional cultural heritage tourism district;

69           (c) The Executive Director of the Department of  
70 Archives and History;

71           (d) The Executive Director of the Department of  
72 Economic and Community Development;

73           (e) The Executive Director of the Department of  
74 Transportation;

75           (f) The Executive Director of the Department of  
76 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks;

77           (g) The President of Alcorn State University;

78           (h) The President of Jackson State University;

79           (i) The Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission;

80           (j) The Chairman of the Mississippi River Parkway  
81 Commission;

82           (k) The Regional Superintendent of the U.S. Department  
83 of Interior, National Park Service;

84           (l) Other representatives as the Department of Economic  
85 and Community Development deems appropriate.

86       SECTION 4. For purposes of this act, the Department of  
87 Economic and Community Development shall be authorized:

88           (a) To advocate, coordinate, develop, plan, promote and  
89 research cultural and historical attractions, events, properties  
90 and services in the proposed regional cultural heritage tourism  
91 district;

92           (b) To enter into such contracts and cooperative  
93 agreements with the local, state and federal government with  
94 agencies of such governments, with private individuals, and with  
95 corporations, associations and other organizations, as the  
96 department may deem necessary or convenient; and

97           (c) To provide grants to fund the cost of construction,  
98 preservation, restoration, renovation, repair, investigation,  
99 promotion or interpretation of cultural and historic attractions,  
100 events, properties and services within the proposed regional  
101 cultural heritage tourism district.

102       SECTION 5. In addition to the duties and powers given to the  
103 Department of Economic and Community Development in the foregoing  
104 provisions of this act, the department shall survey cultural and  
105 historical attractions, events, properties and services within  
106 other identifiable geographic regions throughout this state to  
107 determine other areas in which it would be viable and appropriate  
108 to establish regional cultural heritage tourism districts similar  
109 to the pilot district authorized in this act. The department  
110 shall submit a report of its findings to the Legislature on or  
111 before December 1, 2001, by filing a report thereon with the  
112 Secretary of the Mississippi Senate, the Clerk of the Mississippi  
113 House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Economic  
114 Development, Tourism and Parks Committee and the Chairman of the  
115 House Appropriations Committee.

116           SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
117 and after July 1, 2000.