

By: Senator(s) Posey, Carmichael, Jackson

To: Wildlife and Fisheries;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2666

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SOUTHERN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
2 UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
3 OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE
4 CENTER, MONIES IN WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND
5 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created the Southern Arts
8 and Entertainment Center (hereinafter "center"), located in
9 Meridian, Mississippi, under the direction and supervision of the
10 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The
11 purpose of the center shall be to provide an educational,
12 entertaining and interactive facility to illustrate the unique
13 culture of the State of Mississippi or other southern states; to
14 illustrate the outstanding contributions of Mississippians to the
15 arts and the field of entertainment; and to provide
16 family-oriented attractions in the delivery of an educational
17 experience to citizens of, and visitors to, Mississippi.

18 (2) The Southern Arts and Entertainment Center shall consist
19 of a conference center, a performing arts theater, an amphitheater
20 and an artists' village. The center shall conduct ongoing events
21 such as induction into an arts and entertainment hall of fame,
22 seminars, workshops and demonstrations by guest artists.

23 (3) For the construction, operation and support of the
24 center, the center may receive contributions, donations of land or
25 other property, gifts, bequests of money, other forms of financial
26 assistance and property, equipment, materials or manpower from
27 persons, foundations, trust funds, corporations, organizations,

28 and other sources, public or private, to be expended and utilized
29 in carrying out the mission of the center.

30 (4) All expenditures for the center shall be paid by the
31 State Treasurer on warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer,
32 and he shall issue his warrants upon requisition signed by the
33 director of the center.

34 (5) The duties and objectives of the center shall be:

35 (a) To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the
36 study and presentation of the performing, visual, and literary
37 arts and public interest and participation therein;

38 (b) To encourage participation in, appreciation of, and
39 education in the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations
40 of persons in all parts of the state;

41 (c) To take such steps as may be necessary and
42 appropriate to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage
43 of Mississippi and the south to expand the state's cultural
44 resources, and to promote the use of art in state government's
45 activities and facilities;

46 (d) To encourage excellence and assist freedom of
47 artistic expression essential for the well being of the arts; and

48 (e) To administer the Southern Arts and Entertainment
49 Center and to acquire land and property in order to construct and
50 administer the center.

51 SECTION 2. (1) The Southern Arts and Entertainment Center
52 under the direction and supervision of the Mississippi Department
53 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is authorized and empowered to
54 hold public hearings, to enter into contracts within the limit of
55 funds available therefor, with individuals, organizations and
56 institutions for services furthering the objectives of the
57 center's programs; to enter into contracts, within the limit of
58 funds available therefor, with local and regional associations for
59 cooperative endeavors furthering the objectives of the center's
60 programs; to accept gifts, contributions and bequests of

61 unrestricted funds from individuals, foundations, corporations and
62 other organizations or institutions for the purpose of furthering
63 the objectives of the center's programs; to make and sign any
64 agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary to
65 carry out the purposes of this chapter. The center may request
66 and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau,
67 commission or agency of the state such assistance and data as will
68 enable it to properly carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

69 (2) Any monies made available by public or private transfers
70 of property, public or private donations or bequests, public or
71 private foundation grants for the benefit of the Southern Arts and
72 Entertainment Center shall be deposited into the Southern Fund for
73 the Arts and Entertainment Center, a special fund which is created
74 in the state treasury to be administered by the Mississippi
75 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. All funds deposited
76 in this fund shall be used exclusively for the construction and
77 administration of the Southern Arts and Entertainment Center.
78 Unexpended amounts remaining in the special fund at the end of a
79 fiscal year shall not lapse into the state general fund, and any
80 interest earned on amounts in the special fund shall be deposited
81 to the credit of the special fund.

82 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after passage.