

By: Senator(s) Posey, Carmichael, Jackson

To: Wildlife and Fisheries;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2666
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN ARTS
2 AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI; TO AUTHORIZE
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO
4 AGREEMENTS WITH A NONPROFIT CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
5 OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTER; TO AUTHORIZE THE
6 NONPROFIT CORPORATION TO RECEIVE FUNDS AND OTHER RESOURCES MADE
7 AVAILABLE FOR THE SOUTHERN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; TO
8 PROVIDE THAT NO STATE FUNDS OR STATE RESOURCES MAY BE USED FOR THE
9 CENTER UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THAT
10 PURPOSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Southern Arts and
13 Entertainment Center ("center") to be housed in a facility located
14 within the corporate limits of Meridian, Mississippi. The purpose
15 of the center shall be to provide an educational, entertaining and
16 interactive facility to illustrate the unique culture of the State
17 of Mississippi or other southern states; to illustrate the
18 outstanding contributions of Mississippians to the arts and the
19 field of entertainment; and to provide family-oriented attractions
20 in the delivery of an educational experience to citizens of, and
21 visitors to, Mississippi.

22 (2) The center shall consist of a conference center, a
23 performing arts theater, an amphitheater and an artists' village.
24 The center shall conduct ongoing events such as induction into an
25 arts and entertainment hall of fame, seminars, workshops and
26 demonstrations by guest artists.

27 (3) The duties and objectives of the center shall be:

28 (a) To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the
29 study and presentation of the performing, visual, and literary
30 arts and public interest and participation therein;

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

34 (c) To take such steps as may be necessary and
35 appropriate to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage
36 of Mississippi and the south to expand the state's cultural
37 resources, and to promote the use of art in state government's
38 activities and facilities; and

39 (d) To encourage excellence and assist freedom of
40 artistic expression essential for the well being of the arts.

41 (4) The center is authorized to hold public hearings, to
42 enter into contracts within the limit of funds available therefor,
43 with individuals, organizations and institutions for services
44 furthering the objectives of the center's programs; to enter into
45 contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with
46 local and regional associations for cooperative endeavors
47 furthering the objectives of the center's programs; to make and
48 sign any agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be
49 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

50 (5) The Department of Finance and Administration may enter
51 into any agreement with a nonprofit corporation necessary for the
52 construction, operation and administration of the center. For the
53 construction, operation and administration of the center, such
54 nonprofit corporation may receive and expend any funds made
55 available in any manner by public or private sources and may
56 receive contributions and donations of land or other property and
57 other forms of financial assistance and property, equipment,
58 materials or manpower from persons, foundations, trust funds,
59 corporations, organizations, and other public or private sources
60 to be expended and used in carrying out the mission of the center.
61 However, no state funds or other state resources may be used for
62 the center unless specifically authorized by the Legislature for
63 that purpose.

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