

By: Representative Warren

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 187

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-29-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE SECTION OF LAW THAT
3 CREATES THE MISSISSIPPI TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD AND PROVIDES FOR
4 THE DUTIES AND COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-29-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 57-29-25. (1) There is created the Mississippi Tourism
9 Advisory Board to develop a sustained, integrated, collaborative,
10 and long-term plan, that will realize the potential of the state's
11 opportunities for growth in the tourism sector, by establishing a
12 strategic vision with an economic development orientation, in a
13 public and private partnership. The goal of the advisory board is
14 the creation and implementation of a nationally recognized plan
15 that promotes Mississippi tourism within the state, creates jobs,
16 realizes a high return on a modest investment, and therefore
17 improves the quality of life for Mississippians. The advisory
18 board should serve as a consensus builder in the study of the
19 existing condition and potential growth opportunities of the
20 tourism industry in the state's economy.

21 (2) The duties of the advisory board include, but are not
22 limited to, the following:

23 (a) Review of the state's existing laws, policies, and
24 regulations that promote or pertain to the tourism industry in the
25 state.

26 (b) Identifying potential growth areas for tourism in
27 Mississippi including, but not limited to, that related to:



28 (i) Recognizing the special contribution of the
29 state and Mississippians to the Civil Rights Movement in the
30 United States, and assisting in the development and maintenance of
31 educational and historical sites related to the Civil Rights
32 Movement in the United States;

33 (ii) Assisting in the development and maintenance
34 of educational and historical sites related to the Civil War;

35 (iii) Assisting in the creation and maintenance of
36 a statewide "Blues Trail" to offer visitors a structured tour of
37 state blues historical sites and performance venues;

38 (iv) Assisting in the coordination and development
39 of park visitation with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
40 Fisheries and Parks;

41 (v) Assisting in the attraction of professional
42 and semi-professional ball sports teams to locate, or individual
43 professional racing or other sporting events to be held, in the
44 state; and

45 (vi) Assisting in the promotion of the
46 opportunities for recreation in the state's legal gaming venues
47 that include nationally and internationally recognized
48 entertainment offerings in music and performing arts.

49 (c) Identifying public and private partnership
50 opportunities to market the many positive attributes and
51 advantages of the state to the rest of the nation and the world.

52 (d) Identifying any organizational or other governance
53 obstacles that have the potential to inhibit the expansion of
54 tourism in Mississippi.

55 (e) Reviewing current public and private funding
56 opportunities and incentives.

57 (3) The advisory board shall consist of the following
58 fifteen (15) members:



59 (a) One (1) representative from each of the following
60 agencies or entities, as designated by the respective agency or
61 entity:

62 (i) Mississippi Development Authority;

63 (ii) Mississippi Tourism Association;

64 (iii) Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
65 Fisheries and Parks;

66 (iv) Mississippi Blues Commission;

67 (v) Mississippi Gaming Commission;

68 (vi) Mississippi Economic Council;

69 (vii) Mississippi Department of Transportation;

70 (b) Two (2) individuals who are employed at a state
71 college or university and who possess tourism expertise, appointed
72 by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

73 (c) Two (2) individuals who have experience in local
74 and regional tourism endeavors, one (1) appointed by the
75 Lieutenant Governor and one (1) appointed by the Speaker of the
76 Mississippi House of Representatives;

77 (d) The Chair of the Tourism Committee of the
78 Mississippi State Senate;

79 (e) The Chair of the Tourism Committee of the
80 Mississippi House of Representatives; and

81 (f) Two (2) individuals appointed by the Governor.

82 (4) The advisory board shall hold its first meeting not
83 later than July 1, 2008, with the date, time and location of the
84 meeting to be designated jointly by the Chairs of the House and
85 Senate Tourism Committees. At the first meeting, the advisory
86 board shall elect from among its membership a chair, vice chair,
87 and any other officers determined to be necessary, and it shall
88 set the date, time and location of its subsequent meetings. Eight
89 (8) members of the advisory board shall constitute a quorum for
90 the transaction of business.



91 (5) All meetings of the advisory board and any committees of
92 the advisory board shall be open to the public, with opportunities
93 for public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all
94 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act in
95 Section 25-41-1 et seq., and appropriate notice also shall be
96 given to all persons requesting the date, time and place of each
97 meeting.

98 (6) Members of the advisory board shall serve without
99 compensation for their services, and the advisory board shall
100 perform its duties without legislative appropriation or the use of
101 any state funds for that purpose; however, the advisory board, by
102 approval of a majority of the appointed members of the advisory
103 board, is authorized to accept funds that may be donated or
104 provided in the form of financial grants from public or private
105 sources. The Mississippi State Legislature shall provide the
106 administrative staff and other support necessary for the advisory
107 board to perform its duties. In addition, any department,
108 division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state, or of
109 any political subdivision thereof, shall provide, at the request
110 of the chair of the advisory board, such facilities, assistance
111 and data as will enable the advisory board to carry out its
112 duties.

113 (7) The provisions of this section shall stand repealed from
114 and after July 1, 2013.

115 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
116 and after July 1, 2010.

