

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. XXX**  
**MISSISSIPPI GROWTH STRATEGIES STUDY COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi is experiencing rapid growth and land-use change in the periphery of metropolitan centers; and

**WHEREAS**, this growth and land-use change have resulted in significant impacts on development patterns, traffic, air and water resources, open space, wetlands, availability of affordable housing, and the ability of local governments to finance public facilities and service improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, new growth and development in this State have been uneven and imbalanced, with rural areas, small towns, and older portions of metropolitan areas losing economic vitality, resulting in out-migration, loss of revenue, disinvestment, and increased unemployment; and

**WHEREAS**, this imbalance in growth and development has resulted in loss of community character in parts of this State and in an imbalance in economic opportunity to its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the problems of growth and development are inter jurisdictional and require cooperation, coordination, and creative partnerships by all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, this growth and development have, in some cases, resulted in heightened exposure of property to the effects of natural hazards, requiring additional public expenditures for repair, replacement, and mitigation after the natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments lack adequate tools to address new growth and development;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create and establish the Mississippi Growth Strategies Study Commission (“Commission”) and order the following:

I: COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

- (1) The Commission shall consist of [*number*] members, specifically: [*name members of commission*].
- (2) All members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and all vacancies in the Commission, by whatever cause, shall be filled by appointment of the Governor.

- (3) The chair of the Commission shall be [name] and the vice chair of the Commission shall be [name].
- (4) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide staff and administrative support for the Commission. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed by the Department for their actual expenses incurred in performance of their duties in the work of the Commission.
- (5) All departments and agencies of the State of Mississippi shall cooperate with the Commission and shall provide information and advice and otherwise assist the Commission in its work. This assistance shall include free access to any books, records, or documents in the custody of the department or agency.

## II: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall have the following functions and duties:

- (1) evaluate the effectiveness of current state laws on state, regional, and local planning and land use;
- (2) survey state and regional agencies, local governments, and the private sector to determine the extent and types of planning techniques and land-use tools being used and their attitudes toward the current system, and identify new desired tools;
- (3) survey developers, builders, contractors, planners, engineers, surveyors, environmentalists, attorneys, citizen groups, and local government agencies about problems associated with the current system and seek their advice on solutions to those problems;
- (4) review model legislation and studies on planning and land-use systems and collect information on states that have undertaken reform efforts and have working systems;
- (5) identify public information, training, and technical assistance needs by state and regional agencies and local governments related to planning and land use;
- (6) identify incentives and techniques for sharing the benefits of economic growth and eliminating or reducing fiscal competition among local governments;
- (7) propose initiatives for the development of geographic information systems related to planning and land use at all levels of government;
- (8) propose innovative and cooperative planning and land-use approaches that will accommodate and guide growth and development, ensure the planning and construction of adequate supporting services and infrastructure, including utilities, stormwater management systems, and transportation, provide opportunities for and eliminate barriers to affordable housing, protect the environment, and minimize exposure to natural hazards;

- (9) examine and evaluate methods of coordinating activities of the legislature and state agencies relating to matters of growth and development, and stabilization and revitalization of existing communities and urban areas, including but not limited to the consideration of a statewide planning process and the establishment of state goals and policies to guide state strategic and functional planning and regional and local planning;
- (10) evaluate and recommend approaches that will balance the advancement of the public interest with the protection of private property rights and ensure certainty in the planning and land-use system and streamlined and efficient administrative and judicial review of development proposals; and
- (11) stimulate statewide discussion on problems related to planning and land-use change, identify alternative planning, regulatory, and capital investment solutions, and attempt to reach consensus on desired approaches.

### III: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (1) In undertaking its functions and duties, the Commission shall hold public hearings throughout the State and seek broad-based involvement from the State's governmental units and citizens.
- (2) The Commission may, at its option, hold public hearings after releasing its final report pursuant to Article IV below but before drafting any proposed legislation to carry out the recommendations of that report.
- (3) All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, regardless of whether they are public hearings.

### IV: REPORT

The Commission shall prepare an interim report of findings by *[date]*, a final report with specific recommendations for legislation and/or administrative changes by *[date]*, and proposed legislation to carry out its recommendations by *[date]*.

- (1) These reports and proposed legislation shall be transmitted to the Governor and the Legislature and shall be made available to the public.
- (2) Copies of the reports and proposed legislation shall be deposited with the Mississippi Library Commission and, through that agency, shall be sent to all public libraries in the state that serve as depositories for state documents.

V: DURATION OF COMMISSION

The Commission shall terminate on [*date*], after which time it may continue only at the pleasure of the Governor.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, [*Month*] [*date*], 2000, in the 224<sup>th</sup> year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE,  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

ERIC CLARK  
SECRETARY OF STATE