

*Remarks for the  
Bill Signing of HB1639  
March 20, 2002*

In my State of the State address, I outlined four priorities for Mississippi – jobs, education, health care and public safety. Today, I'm proud to sign legislation that will help shape one of those priorities.

House Bill 1639 is a great economic development tool for Mississippi. It allows counties to coordinate sites for economic development without a binding agreement with a client.

What does this mean? It means that counties in this state can be one step ahead of the game when it comes to bringing jobs to their area. It encourages counties to work together to improve the quality of life for their people.

It means Mississippi's ability to compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere is significantly strengthened.

I believe that the race doesn't always go to the swift, but to those who keep on running. This legislation gives us added strength for the race.

Mississippi is making a name for itself in the area of economic development. We are looked at seriously for major projects and investments. We were recently named as one of the top ten states for economic development by *Site Selection* magazine.

That speaks volumes for the work we're doing, and it proves we're doing a good job in running the race.

House Bill 1639 is going to help us finish the race at the front of the pack. Today, it's my pleasure to sign it into law.

