

Tourism Rebate Program

The Tourism Rebate Program is designed to encourage businesses that create attractions in the state that encourage tourists to visit Mississippi. The program is designed to return a portion of the sales taxes collected at the qualified tourism attraction back to the developer to offset costs associated with establishing the facility.

Program Facts

The Tourism Rebate Program provides for a rebate of a percentage of sales taxes collected at the certified project for a period of up to 10 years. This incentive is available to tourism-oriented enterprises, but excludes any entity having a gaming license or any project in which an entity having a gaming license has a direct or indirect interest. It also excludes projects whose primary business is retail.

To participate in this program, application must be made to the Mississippi Development Authority. The following businesses may qualify for this tax rebate:

Tourist attractions with a minimum private investment of not less than \$10,000,000.00. Examples of attractions that qualify are:

- Theme parks
- Water parks
- Entertainment parks or outdoor adventure parks
- Cultural or historical interpretive educational centers or museums
- Motor speedways
- Indoor or outdoor entertainment centers or complexes
- Attractions created around a natural phenomenon or scenic landscape, and
- Marinas open to the public;
- Hotels with a minimum private investment of \$40,000,000.00 in land, buildings, architecture, fixtures, equipment, furnishings, amenities, engineering, and other related soft costs approved by the Mississippi Development Authority. The facility must have a minimum private investment of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per guest room. The room investment may be included in the minimum total private investment of \$40,000,000.00; or
- Public golf courses with a minimum private investment of \$10,000,000.00.

All projects must be certified by the Mississippi Development Authority. Once the total project costs have been established, 80% of eligible sales tax collections will be rebated to the applicant for a period of 10 years, or until the applicant has recouped 30% or the total project cost – whichever occurs first.

For further details, see the Mississippi Tax Incentives, Exemptions, and Credits on the State Tax Commission's website <http://www.mstc.state.ms.us/revenue/incentive/2008IncentiveBook.pdf>, or Section 57-26-1 et seq., MS Code 1972, Annotated. To request these documents or for assistance, contact the State Tax Commission at (601)923-7044 or the Financial Resources Division at financial@mississippi.org or (601)359-3552.