

By: Representative Denny

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

## HOUSE BILL NO. 533

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-17-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON AN INITIATIVE  
3 PETITION PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO QUALIFY  
4 THE INITIATIVE MEASURE FOR PLACEMENT ON THE ELECTION BALLOT SHALL  
5 BE NOT LESS THAN SIX PERCENT OF THE VOTES FOR ALL CANDIDATES FOR  
6 GOVERNOR IN THE LAST GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 23-17-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 23-17-21. Before a person may file a petition with the  
12 Secretary of State, the petition must be certified by the circuit  
13 clerk of each county in which the petition was circulated. The  
14 circuit clerk shall certify the signatures of qualified electors  
15 of that county and shall state the total number of qualified  
16 electors signing the petition in that county. The circuit clerk  
17 shall verify the name of each qualified elector signing on each  
18 petition. A circuit clerk may not receive any fee, salary or  
19 compensation from any private person or private legal entity for  
20 the clerk's duties in certifying an initiative petition. When the  
21 person proposing any initiative measure has secured upon the  
22 petition a number of signatures of qualified electors equal to or  
23 exceeding six percent (6%) of the votes for all candidates for  
24 Governor in the last gubernatorial election, and such signatures  
25 have been certified by the circuit clerks of the various counties,  
26 he may submit the petition to the Secretary of State for filing.  
27 The Secretary of State shall collect a fee of Five Hundred Dollars  
28 (\$500.00) from the person filing the petition to pay part of the

29 administrative and publication costs.

30 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
31 and after the date that House Concurrent Resolution No.\_\_\_\_, 1999  
32 Regular Session, is ratified by the electorate.