

By: Senator(s) Hall

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 505

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 254, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO INCREMENTALLY REDUCE THE  
3 SIZE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
5 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi  
6 Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the  
7 state:

8 Amend Section 254, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
9 as follows:

10 Section 254. The Legislature shall at its regular session in  
11 the second year following the 1980 decennial census and every ten  
12 (10) years thereafter, and may, at any other time, by joint  
13 resolution, by majority vote of all members of each house,  
14 apportion the state in accordance with the Constitution of the  
15 state and of the United States into consecutively numbered  
16 senatorial and representative districts of contiguous territory.  
17 The Senate shall consist of not more than fifty-two (52) Senators,  
18 and the House of Representatives shall consist of not more than  
19 one hundred twenty-two (122) Representatives, the number of  
20 members of each house to be determined by the Legislature.

21 In any reapportionment or redistricting of the Legislature  
22 based upon the decennial census for the year 2000, the Senate  
23 shall consist of not more than forty-nine (49) Senators and the  
24 House of Representatives shall consist of not more than one  
25 hundred fifteen (115) Representatives.

26 In any reapportionment or redistricting of the Legislature

27 based upon the decennial census for the year 2010, the Senate  
28 shall consist of not more than forty-five (45) Senators and the  
29 House of Representatives shall consist of not more than one  
30 hundred seven (107) Representatives.

31 In any reapportionment or redistricting of the Legislature  
32 based upon the decennial census for the year 2020, or any  
33 decennial census thereafter, the Senate shall consist of not more  
34 than forty-one (41) Senators and the House of Representatives  
35 shall consist of not more than ninety-nine (99) Representatives.

36 Should the Legislature adjourn, without apportioning itself  
37 as required hereby, the Governor by proclamation shall reconvene  
38 the Legislature within thirty (30) days in special apportionment  
39 session which shall not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days,  
40 during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall  
41 be the mandatory duty of the Legislature to adopt a joint  
42 resolution of apportionment. Should a special apportionment  
43 session not adopt a joint resolution of apportionment as required  
44 hereby, a five-member commission consisting of the Chief Justice  
45 of the Supreme Court as chairman, the Attorney General, the  
46 Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
47 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall immediately  
48 convene and within one hundred eighty (180) days of the  
49 adjournment of such special apportionment session apportion the  
50 Legislature, which apportionment shall be final upon filing with  
51 the office of the Secretary of State. Each apportionment shall be  
52 effective for the next regularly scheduled elections of members of  
53 the Legislature.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be  
55 submitted to the qualified electors at an election to be held on  
56 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 1999, as  
57 provided by Section 273 of the Constitution and by law.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment  
59 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed amendment

60 reduces the size of the Legislature.

61 The Legislature will be reduced as follows:

62 Year 2000 not more than: 49 Senators, 115 Representatives

63 Year 2010 not more than: 45 Senators, 107 Representatives

64 Year 2020 not more than: 41 Senators, 99 Representatives."

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the  
66 State of Mississippi is hereby directed to submit this resolution,  
67 immediately upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney  
68 General of the United States or to the United States District  
69 Court for the District of Columbia, in accordance with the  
70 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
71 extended.