

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 254, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE
3 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 2000 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 * * * thirty (30) Senators, and the
18 House of Representatives shall consist of * * * sixty (60)
19 Representatives * * *.

20 Should the Legislature adjourn, without apportioning itself
21 as required hereby, the Governor by proclamation shall reconvene
22 the Legislature within thirty (30) days in special apportionment
23 session which shall not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days,
24 during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall
25 be the mandatory duty of the Legislature to adopt a joint
26 resolution of apportionment. Should a special apportionment

27 session not adopt a joint resolution of apportionment as required
28 hereby, a five-member commission consisting of the Chief Justice
29 of the Supreme Court as chairman, the Attorney General, the
30 Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
31 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall immediately
32 convene and within one hundred eighty (180) days of the
33 adjournment of such special apportionment session apportion the
34 Legislature, which apportionment shall be final upon filing with
35 the office of the Secretary of State. Each apportionment shall be
36 effective for the next regularly scheduled elections of members of
37 the Legislature.

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

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment
43 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed amendment
44 reduces the size of the Legislature. The Senate is reduced from
45 52 members to 30 members. The House of Representatives is reduced
46 from 122 members to 60 members."

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the
48 State of Mississippi is hereby directed to submit this resolution,
49 immediately upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney
50 General of the United States or to the United States District
51 Court for the District of Columbia, in accordance with the
52 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
53 extended.