

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 531

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE TO
2 STUDY THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE
5 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That a special joint
6 study committee is created to make a comprehensive study of the
7 creation of a cabinet level position or department on women's
8 affairs. The joint committee shall be composed of five (5)
9 members of the House of Representatives, one (1) from each
10 congressional district, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
11 House, five (5) members of the Senate, one (1) from each
12 congressional district, to be appointed by the Lieutenant
13 Governor, and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House and the
14 President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The chairman of the joint
15 committee shall be elected by the committee.

16 Within fifteen (15) days after sine die adjournment of the
17 1999 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Speaker and the
18 Lieutenant Governor shall appoint the members of the committee.
19 After the members are appointed, the joint committee shall meet on
20 a date designated by the chairman of the joint committee at the
21 New Capitol to organize the committee and establish rules for
22 transacting its business and keeping records. A majority of the
23 members of the joint committee from each house shall constitute a
24 quorum at all committee meetings. An affirmative vote of a
25 majority of the members from each house present and voting shall
26 be required in the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, and

27 in any other actions taken by the committee. All members of the
28 joint committee shall be notified in writing of all regular and
29 special meetings of the committee, which notices shall be mailed
30 at least five (5) days before the dates of the meetings.

31 The joint committee may establish any subcommittees that it
32 deems desirable to study and report to the committee with respect
33 to any matter that is within the scope of this resolution.

34 The joint committee shall make a written report of its
35 findings and recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report
36 to each member of the Legislature not later than December 1, 1999.

37 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the joint
38 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of
39 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state,
40 including the state universities and the community and junior
41 colleges.

42 For attending meetings of the joint committee each member
43 shall be paid, from the contingent expense fund of the member's
44 respective house, per diem compensation in the amount authorized
45 by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and a mileage
46 allowance and an expense allowance in the amount authorized by
47 Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972. However, no per diem
48 compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid
49 for attending meetings of the joint committee while the
50 Legislature is in session, and no per diem compensation, mileage
51 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid without prior
52 approval of the proper committee in the member's respective house.

53 All expenses incurred by and on behalf of the joint committee
54 shall be paid from funds made available by the House Management
55 Committee and the Senate Management Committee from the contingent
56 expense funds of the respective houses, from any funds
57 appropriated for the purpose of this resolution, and from any
58 grants or contributions made to the committee for its purpose.