

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 532

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE AND EMPOWER THE MISSISSIPPI
2 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE
4 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That there is hereby
5 created the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women. The
6 commission shall be composed of thirteen (13) members to be
7 appointed as follows:

8 (a) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the
9 Governor.

10 (b) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the
11 Lieutenant Governor.

12 (c) Three (3) members shall be appointed by the
13 Attorney General.

14 The members of the commission shall be women and men of
15 recognized ability and achievement who are representative of the
16 ethnic and cultural diversity of the population of this state.
17 Members shall serve for terms of four (4) years each, and no
18 member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. All
19 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority for the
20 unexpired term.

21 The commission shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman and
22 secretary from among its members for terms of two (2) years each,
23 and any member is eligible for successive elections to office.

24 A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the
25 members of the commission.

26 Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for expenses as

27 provided in Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall
28 receive per diem as provided in Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code
29 of 1972.

30 The Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General shall notify
31 the Governor after they have made their appointments, and the
32 Governor shall then designate a place and time for the initial,
33 organizational meeting of the commission.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall have the
35 powers and authority necessary to carry out the duties imposed
36 upon it by this resolution, including, but not limited to, the
37 following:

38 (a) To employ such administrative, technical and other
39 personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its powers
40 and duties;

41 (b) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and
42 do or perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable or proper
43 to carry out the purposes of this resolution;

44 (c) To cooperate with any state agency, authority,
45 board, commission, department or institution to facilitate its
46 implementation of the powers and duties granted to the commission
47 in this resolution; and each such state agency, authority, board,
48 commission, department or institution shall cooperate with the
49 commission in the performance of its duties;

50 (d) To appoint advisers or advisory committees from
51 time to time when the commission determines that the experience or
52 expertise of such advisers or advisory committees is needed for
53 projects of the commission; and

54 (e) To apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts and
55 services from the state, the government of the United States or
56 any of its agencies, or any other public or private source, for
57 the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may
58 be necessary in carrying out its duties under this resolution.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall study the

60 following:

61 (a) Women's educational and employment problems, needs
62 and opportunities;

63 (b) State laws in regard to the civil and political
64 rights of women, including pensions, tax requirements, property
65 rights, marriage and dissolution of marriage provisions, and
66 similar matters;

67 (c) The effect of social attitudes and pressures and
68 economic considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by
69 women in the society; and

70 (d) Any laws, practices or conditions concerning or
71 affecting women which impose special limitations or burdens upon
72 them or upon society, or which limit or tend to limit
73 opportunities available to women.

74 The commission shall act as an information center on the
75 status of women and women's educational, employment and other
76 related needs.

77 The commission shall recommend, develop, prepare or
78 coordinate materials, projects or other activities and shall give
79 technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or
80 persons concerned with any of the following:

81 (a) Preventing or minimizing problems brought about by
82 the changing roles and responsibilities of women; and

83 (b) Developing programs to encourage and enable women
84 to be fully contributing members of society.

85 The commission may encourage women's organizations and other
86 groups to institute local self-help activities designed to meet
87 women's educational, employment and related needs.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall make a
89 report to the Legislature at the close of each fiscal year on its
90 activities, findings and recommendations.