

By: Scoper

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 538

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO AMEND THE MISSISSIPPI  
 2 CONSTITUTION OF 1890 BY AMENDING SECTION 140 AND REPEALING  
 3 SECTIONS 141 AND 142 TO PROVIDE THAT THE PERSON RECEIVING THE  
 4 MAJORITY OF VOTES FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR AT THE GENERAL  
 5 ELECTION SHALL BE DECLARED ELECTED; IF NO PERSON RECEIVES A  
 6 MAJORITY OF THE VOTES; TO PROVIDE FOR A RUN-OFF ELECTION TWO WEEKS  
 7 LATER BETWEEN THE TWO PERSONS RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF  
 8 VOTES; TO ABOLISH THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE GOVERNOR BE ELECTED BY  
 9 VOTE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IF NO PERSON RECEIVES BOTH A  
 10 MAJORITY OF THE POPULAR VOTE AND A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORAL  
 11 VOTES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
 13 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendments to the Mississippi  
 14 Constitution of 1890 are proposed to the qualified electors of the  
 15 state:

I.

17 Amend Section 140, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
 18 as follows:

19 "Section 140. The Governor of the state shall be elected by  
 20 the people in a general election to be held on the first Tuesday  
 21 after the first Monday of November of A.D. 2003, and on the first  
 22 Tuesday after the first Monday of November in every fourth year  
 23 thereafter. \* \* \* The person receiving a majority of the number  
 24 of votes cast in the election for the office shall be declared  
 25 elected \* \* \*.

26 If no person receives a majority of the votes, then a run-off  
27 election shall be held two (2) weeks after the general election  
28 between the two (2) persons who received the highest number of  
29 votes. The election shall be held in the same manner and in  
30 accordance with the same procedure, as nearly as practicable, as  
31 provided by law for a general election. The candidate who  
32 receives a majority of the votes in the run-off election shall be  
33 declared elected."

34 II.

35 Amend the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 by repealing  
36 Section 141 which reads as follows:

37 "Section 141. If no person shall receive such majorities,  
38 then the House of Representatives shall proceed to choose a  
39 Governor from the two (2) persons who shall have received the  
40 highest number of popular votes. The election shall be by viva  
41 voce vote, which shall be recorded in the journal, in such manner  
42 as to show for whom each member voted."

43 III.

44 Amend the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 by repealing  
45 Section 142 which reads as follows:

46 "Section 142. In case of an election of Governor or any  
47 state officer by the House of Representatives, no member of that  
48 House shall be eligible to receive any appointment from the  
49 Governor or other state officer so elected, during the term for  
50 which he shall be elected."

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these proposed amendments shall  
52 be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors  
53 at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first  
54 Monday of November 2000, as provided by Section 273 of the  
55 Constitution and by general law, with the amendments in this  
56 resolution being voted on as one (1) amendment since the proposed

57 amendments pertain to one (1) subject.

58       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
59 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
60 constitutional amendment provides that the person who receives a  
61 majority of the popular vote for Governor at the general election  
62 shall be declared elected. If no person receives a majority, then  
63 a run-off election between the two persons receiving the highest  
64 number of votes will be held two weeks later. The amendment  
65 abolishes the requirement that the Governor be elected by vote of  
66 the House of Representatives if no candidate receives both a  
67 majority of the popular vote and a majority of the electoral  
68 votes."

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