

By: Smith, Little, Jackson,  
Gordon, Williamson, Dawkins,  
Frazier, Harden

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 504

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CIVIC EDUCATION AND  
2 DECLARING THE THIRD FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER AS MISSISSIPPI'S  
3 LEGISLATORS BACK TO SCHOOL DAY.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi was created as a representative  
5 democracy in which all governmental power is inherent in the  
6 people who exercise that power through the legislative, executive  
7 and judicial branches; and

8 WHEREAS, in recent years, citizen interest in government and  
9 knowledge of the political system has declined in part due to a  
10 weakening belief in, and a lack of understanding of the virtues  
11 and knowledge needed for a successful republican form of  
12 government; and

13 WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of  
14 Independence stated, "There is but one method of rendering a  
15 republican form of government durable, and that is by  
16 disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part  
17 of the state by means of proper places and modes of education and  
18 this can be done effectively only by the aid of the legislature";  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)  
21 has passed a resolution that says that the operations of the state  
22 legislatures and the roles of individual legislators are often  
23 little understood by citizens, and that public understanding of  
24 the institutions and processes of the government is critical to  
25 building public trust and confidence; and

26 WHEREAS, the NCSL resolution also states that state

27 legislatures need to bring about better understanding of the  
28 concept of representative democracy and that education about  
29 representative democracy should emphasize the importance of  
30 compromise and the difficulty of resolving competing interests in  
31 a diverse society; and

32 WHEREAS, civic education is a vital tool to promote greater  
33 understanding of the legislative institution and the role of  
34 legislators in representative democracy; and

35 WHEREAS, NCSL urges the nation's state legislatures to  
36 promote civic education about representative democracy; and

37 WHEREAS, NCSL has established America's Legislators Back to  
38 School Day, a national day on which state legislators across the  
39 nation visit schools and classrooms to talk about the legislature  
40 and to observe activities in the schools; and

41 WHEREAS, legislators will benefit from interacting with  
42 students, teachers and administrators:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
45 the Mississippi Legislature supports civic education to promote  
46 greater understanding of the legislative institution and the role  
47 of legislators in representative democracy.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Legislature  
49 declares that the third Friday in September shall be designated as  
50 Mississippi's Legislators Back to School Day and urges all members  
51 of the legislature to visit schools on that day.