

By: Representatives Chism, Mayo

To: Constitution

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO DELETE THE ENUMERATION  
3 OF SPECIFIC FELONIES, CONVICTION OF WHICH WILL PRECLUDE A PERSON  
4 FROM BEING DECLARED A QUALIFIED ELECTOR; TO PROVIDE THAT  
5 CONVICTION IN A COURT OF THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE OR IN ANY  
6 FEDERAL COURT OF ANY FELONY WILL PRECLUDE A PERSON FROM BEING  
7 DECLARED A QUALIFIED ELECTOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
9 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi  
10 Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the  
11 state:

12 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
13 as follows:

14 "Section 241. Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots  
15 and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States of  
16 America, eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a  
17 resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in  
18 the county in which he offers to vote, and for six (6) months in  
19 the election precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which  
20 he offers to vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this  
21 article, and who has never been convicted in a court of this state  
22 or any other state or in any federal court of any offense which is  
23 a felony under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the  
24 conviction occurred, is declared to be a qualified elector, except  
25 that he shall be qualified to vote for President and Vice  
26 President of the United States if he meets the requirements  
27 established by Congress therefor and is otherwise a qualified  
28 elector. No person, after the ratification of this amendment,

29 shall be disqualified as an elector by reason of conviction before  
30 the ratification of this amendment of any offense unless  
31 conviction of the offense would disqualify such person as an  
32 elector under the provisions of this Constitution in effect  
33 immediately before the ratification of this amendment."

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be  
35 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at  
36 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday  
37 of November 2002, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution  
38 and by general law.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
40 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
41 constitutional amendment removes from the Constitution a list of  
42 specific felonies, conviction of any of which disqualifies a  
43 person as an elector. The amendment provides that conviction in  
44 this state, another state or any federal court of any felony  
45 disqualifies a person as an elector."

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