

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th), Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 535

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND PROCLAIMING NEW STAGE
2 THEATRE, MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL THEATRE, AS "THE
3 STATE THEATRE OF MISSISSIPPI."

4 WHEREAS, since 1965, New Stage Theatre has set the standard
5 for theatre in the State of Mississippi. As Mississippi's only
6 resident professional theatre, New Stage has become one of the
7 state's foremost cultural resources, giving professional theatre
8 artists from the state a reason to stay in Mississippi and
9 bringing the best of theatrical talent from around the country
10 into our state to perform for local audiences; and

11 WHEREAS, throughout New Stage's history, the best in
12 dramatic, comic, musical and family entertainment has graced the
13 theatre's stages, New Stage has brought world premieres of new
14 works by developing as well as established artists, works by
15 renowned Mississippi writers such as Eudora Welty (who is a member
16 of the New Stage board), Tennessee Williams and Beth Henley are
17 presented along with the classics of theatre history, the best of
18 American and contemporary drama, and new works by the rising stars
19 of tomorrow; and

20 WHEREAS, New Stage Theatre is Mississippi's only resident
21 professional theatre and operates in association with Actors'
22 Equity Association, the national union for professional actors and
23 stage managers. Programs are funded by grants and by corporate
24 and individual contributors, as well as, by season and individual
25 ticket sales; the mainstage season includes six shows and two
26 children's shows; in the Hewes Room, an active Late Night at New
27 Stage is presented in addition to youth and adult acting classes.

28 During the 1997-1998 season, over 40,000 Mississippians attended
29 in-house productions at New Stage Theatre on the main stage and in
30 the Hewes Room; and

31 WHEREAS, New Stage's presence and positive influence is felt
32 throughout the state -- not only in our work in Jackson but in our
33 extensive educational program and touring outreaches. Each year,
34 the New Stage Arts in Education company of touring actors performs
35 plays and conducts workshops for thousands of young people from
36 all age groups at schools, churches, theatres and auditoriums from
37 Gulfport to Memphis and from Vicksburg to Columbus; thousands of
38 Mississippians get their first exposure to live theatre from New
39 Stage productions in the capitol city and around the state and New
40 Stage, in turn, has historically been supportive of the numerous
41 other educational and community theatre undertakings throughout
42 the state; and

43 WHEREAS, New Stage Theatre continues to set the standard for
44 high quality professional theatre entertainment in Mississippi.
45 With a dynamic and forward-looking vision to carry the theatre
46 into the 21st Century, New Stage will continue to be one of
47 Mississippi's most outstanding and nationally recognized cultural
48 resources:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby recognize and proclaim New Stage Theatre,
52 Mississippi's only resident professional theatre, as "The State
53 Theatre of Mississippi," and commend Artistic Director John
54 Maxwell and the theatre staff for its educational and community
55 theatre undertakings throughout the state.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 Artistic Director John Maxwell and be made available to members of
58 the Capitol Press Corps.