

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.