

By: Senator(s) Hewes, King, Dawkins,  
Dearing, Johnson (19th), Lee, Moffatt, White  
(29th), Nunnelee, Smith

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 520

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 213-A OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 TO PROVIDE THAT FROM  
3 AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2003, APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
4 OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL BE MADE FROM THE  
5 FOUR MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, TO REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE  
6 ALUMNUS FROM EACH STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD,  
7 AND TO PROVIDE A TERM OF OFFICE FOR SUCH NEW APPOINTMENTS; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 Amend Section 213-A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to  
14 read as follows:

15 Section 213-A. The state institutions of higher learning now  
16 existing in Mississippi, to wit: University of Mississippi,  
17 Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science,  
18 Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern  
19 Mississippi, Delta State University, Alcorn State University,  
20 Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and  
21 any others of like kind which may be hereafter organized or  
22 established by the State of Mississippi, shall be under the  
23 management and control of a board of trustees to be known as the  
24 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the  
25 members thereof to be appointed by the Governor of the state with  
26 the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall appoint  
27 only men and women as such members as shall be qualified electors  
28 residing in the district from which each is appointed, and at  
29 least twenty-five (25) years of age, and of the highest order of  
30 intelligence, character, learning and fitness for the performance



31 of such duties, to the end that such board shall perform the high  
32 and honorable duties thereof to the greatest advantage of the  
33 people of the state of such educational institutions, uninfluenced  
34 by any political considerations. The members of the board of  
35 trustees as constituted on January 1, 2003, whose terms have not  
36 expired shall serve the balance of their terms, after which time  
37 the membership of the board shall be appointed as follows: There  
38 shall be appointed three (3) members of the board of trustees from  
39 each of the four (4) Mississippi congressional districts, and the  
40 Governor shall make appointments from the congressional district  
41 having the smallest number of board members until the membership  
42 includes three (3) members from each district as required. The  
43 Governor shall appoint to the board not less than one (1) member  
44 who is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, not less than  
45 one (1) member who is a graduate of Mississippi State University  
46 of Agriculture and Applied Science, not less than one (1) member  
47 who is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, not less  
48 than one (1) member who is a graduate of the University of  
49 Southern Mississippi, not less than one (1) member who is a  
50 graduate of Delta State University, not less than one (1) member  
51 who is a graduate of Alcorn State University, not less than one  
52 (1) member who is a graduate of Jackson State University, and not  
53 less than one (1) member who is a graduate of Mississippi Valley  
54 State University. The term of office of the members appointed  
55 after January 1, 2003, shall be six (6) years. In case of a  
56 vacancy on said board by death or resignation of a member, or from  
57 any other cause than the expiration of such member's term of  
58 office, the board shall elect his successor, who shall hold office  
59 until the end of the next session of the Legislature. During such  
60 term of the session of the Legislature the Governor shall appoint  
61 the successor member of the board from the district from which his  
62 predecessor was appointed, to hold office until the end of the  
63 period for which such original trustee was appointed, to the end



64 that one-third (1/3) of such trustees' terms will expire each four  
65 (4) years.

66 The Legislature shall provide by law for the appointment of a  
67 trustee for the La Bauve Fund at the University of Mississippi and  
68 for the perpetuation of such fund.

69 Such board shall have the power and authority to elect the  
70 heads of the various institutions of higher learning, and contract  
71 with all deans, professors and other members of the teaching  
72 staff, and all administrative employees of said institutions for a  
73 term not exceeding four (4) years; but said board shall have the  
74 power and authority to terminate any such contract at any time for  
75 malfeasance, inefficiency or contumacious conduct, but never for  
76 political reasons.

77 Nothing herein contained shall in any way limit or take away  
78 the power the Legislature had and possessed, if any, at the time  
79 of the adoption of this amendment, to consolidate, abolish or  
80 change the status of any of the above named institutions.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment to the  
82 Constitution shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this  
83 state at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the  
84 first Monday of November 2002, in the manner provided by Section  
85 273 of the Constitution and by law.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
87 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
88 amendment provides that after January 1, 2003, new members of the  
89 twelve-member Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
90 Learning shall be composed of three (3) members from each of the  
91 Mississippi congressional districts and requires each state  
92 university to have at least one (1) alumnus as a member of the  
93 board. The term of office of the new appointments is reduced from  
94 twelve (12) years to six (6) years."

