

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 538

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE THAT PERSONS
3 CONVICTED OF A FELONY SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the
7 Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified
8 electors of the state.

9 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
10 as follows:

11 Section 241. Qualifications for electors.

12 Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots and insane
13 persons, who is a citizen of the United States of America,
14 eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a resident of
15 this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in the county in
16 which he offers to vote, and for six (6) months in the election
17 precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which he offers to
18 vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this article and
19 by statute, and who has never been convicted of any felony under
20 the laws of this state, another state or in federal court is
21 declared to be a qualified elector, except that he shall be
22 qualified to vote for President and Vice President of the United
23 States if he meets the requirements established by Congress
24 therefor and is otherwise a qualified elector. This section shall
25 not disqualify a person from registering to vote if he has been
26 pardoned for the offense or if the offense of which the person was
27 convicted was manslaughter, any violation of the United States
28 Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this



29 state unless such offense also involved misuse or abuse of his
30 office or money coming into his hands by virtue of his office.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendments in this
32 resolution shall be submitted to the qualified electors at an
33 election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of
34 November, 2003 as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution and
35 by general law.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment
37 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
38 constitutional amendment provides that persons convicted in any
39 state or federal court of any felony other than manslaughter or
40 tax code violations shall not be eligible to vote."

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the
42 State of Mississippi shall submit this resolution, immediately
43 upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney General of the
44 United States or to the United States District Court for the
45 District of Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of the
46 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

