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
6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the
8 Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified
9 electors of the state.
10
11 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
12 as follows:
13
14 Section 241. Qualifications for electors.
15
16 Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots and insane
17 persons, who is a citizen of the United States of America,
18 eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a resident of
19 this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in the county in
20 which he offers to vote, and for six (6) months in the election
21 precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which he offers to
22 vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this article and
23 by statute, and who has never been convicted of any felony under
24 the laws of this state, another state or in federal court is
25 declared to be a qualified elector, except that he shall be
26 qualified to vote for President and Vice President of the United
27 States if he meets the requirements established by Congress
28 therefor and is otherwise a qualified elector. This section shall
29 not disqualify a person from registering to vote if he has been
30 pardoned for the offense or if the offense of which the person was
31 convicted was manslaughter, any violation of the United States
32 Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this
state unless such offense also involved misuse or abuse of his office or money coming into his hands by virtue of his office.

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

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

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