

By: Representative Fleming

To: Constitution

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO RESTORE THE SUFFRAGE OF
3 NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS AND OFFENDERS OF CRIMES WHICH ARE NOT SEX
4 OFFENSES UPON COMPLETION OF THE OFFENDER'S SENTENCE.

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

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

11 "Section 241. Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots
12 and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States of
13 America, eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a
14 resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in
15 the county in which he offers to vote, and for six (6) months in
16 the election precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which
17 he offers to vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this
18 article, and who has never been convicted of murder, rape,
19 bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false
20 pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, is declared to
21 be a qualified elector, except that he shall be qualified to vote
22 for President and Vice President of the United States if he meets
23 the requirements established by Congress therefor and is otherwise
24 a qualified elector. However, a person convicted of a crime under
25 this section that does not involve sex or violence, shall be
26 declared a qualified elector upon completion of his sentence if
27 the person is otherwise a qualified elector under this section.
28 For the purpose of this section a "nonviolent crime" is a crime in

29 which no person was physically injured or physical injury was not
30 attempted or death did not occur."

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be
32 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at
33 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
34 of November 2004, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution
35 and by general law.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
37 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
38 constitutional amendment will restore the suffrage of persons
39 convicted of nonviolent crimes or crimes not involving sex
40 offenses upon completion of their sentence."