

By: Senator(s) Turner

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547

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. Every inhabitant  
12 of this state is declared to be a qualified elector if the person:

13 (a) Is a citizen of the United States of America;

14 (b) Is eighteen (18) years old or older;

15 (c) \* \* \* Has resided in this state for thirty (30)  
16 days, and for thirty (30) days in the county in which the person  
17 offers to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated city  
18 or town in which the person offers to vote and who is duly  
19 registered as provided in this article and by statute;

20 (d) Has not been determined mentally incompetent by a  
21 final judgment of a court;

22 (e) Has not been finally convicted of a felony other  
23 than manslaughter, any violation of the United States Internal  
24 Revenue Code, or any violation of the tax laws of this state or,  
25 if so convicted, has:

26 (i) Fully discharged the person's sentence,  
27 including any term of incarceration, parole or supervision, or  
28 completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or

29                   (ii) Been pardoned or otherwise released from the  
30 resulting disability to vote.

31           A person shall be qualified to vote for President and Vice  
32 President of the United States if the person meets the  
33 requirements established by Congress therefor and is otherwise a  
34 qualified elector.

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendments in this  
36 resolution shall be submitted to the qualified electors at an  
37 election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of  
38 November 2004, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution and  
39 by general law.

40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment  
41 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
42 constitutional amendment provides that a person convicted in any  
43 state or federal court of any felony other than manslaughter or  
44 tax code violations shall not be eligible to vote until the person  
45 has fully discharged any sentence, received a pardon, or the  
46 Legislature has passed a suffrage bill on the person's behalf."

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