

**Withdrawn  
AMENDMENT NO 2 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1269**

**BY: Senator(s) Walls, Jordan, Horhn, Harden, Butler,  
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Simmons,  
Thomas, Turner**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

5        **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the State of Mississippi finds  
6 and declares that:

7               (a) During the period from 1933 to 1945, six million  
8 (6,000,000) Jews and millions of other Europeans were murdered in  
9 Nazi concentration camps as part of a carefully orchestrated  
10 program of cultural, social and political genocide known as  
11 Holocausts;

12               (b) Following the American Civil War and immediately  
13 following the end of Reconstruction in the 1880's until the mid  
14 1960's the United States, experienced an ugly episode of its  
15 national history that has been neglected. During this period,  
16 characterized by white supremacist control primarily in the South  
17 and a "laissez-fair" policy in regard to the African American  
18 nationally, which resulted in disenfranchisement, social,  
19 educational and employment discrimination, African Americans were  
20 betrayed by their country and reduced to a status of quasi slavery  
21 or "second-class" citizenship. There existed a tense atmosphere  
22 of racial hatred, ignorance and fear which bred lawless massacres,

23 mass violence, murder, and lynching which claimed the lives of  
24 thousands of African American men, women and children, including  
25 soldiers in the United States military forces, so much so that the  
26 lynching of African Americans in the South and border states  
27 became an institutionalized method used to terrorize them as a  
28 means to maintain white supremacy. According to the Tuskegee  
29 Institute of Alabama, which began to make a systematic collection  
30 and tabulation of lynching statistics in 1892, between 1882 and  
31 1951, three thousand four hundred and thirty-seven (3,437) African  
32 Americans were lynched in the United States. The systematic  
33 perpetration of violence based on race resulting in thousands of  
34 deaths to African Americans is a "holocaust."

35 (c) Prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus, it is  
36 estimated that the areas which constituted the forty-eight (48)  
37 contiguous states of America was populated with in excess of  
38 twelve million (12,000,000) indigenous people or Native Americans.  
39 Four Centuries later the Native American population had been  
40 reduced by ninety-five percent (95%) to approximately two hundred  
41 thirty-seven thousand (237,000). After the American Revolution,  
42 the United States adopted a policy toward the native Americans  
43 known as the "conquest" theory. Based upon official policies and  
44 practices toward the native Americans and through the  
45 implementation of slavery, mass extermination, massacres, hangings  
46 en masse, roasting, hacking children into pieces, forced mass  
47 sterilization of women, intentionally contaminating them with  
48 deadly diseases, such as smallpox, violent and forceful removal  
49 and "clearing" from homelands, which resulted in military  
50 slaughter of tribal villages, placing bounties on scalps, and  
51 forced assimilation including destruction of indigenous culture,  
52 the Native American has suffered losses of millions of people.  
53 From the beginning of European control of what is now the United

54 States there has been an unrelenting drive to commit genocide of  
55 Native Americans resulting in a "holocaust."

56 (d) All people should remember horrible atrocities  
57 committed in Nazi Germany, at other times in human history as the  
58 result of bigotry and tyranny, and therefore should continually  
59 rededicate themselves to the principles of human rights and equal  
60 protection under the laws of a democratic society;

61 (e) It is desirable to educate our citizens about the  
62 events leading up to the Nazi Holocaust and other Holocausts and  
63 about the organizations and facilities that were created and used  
64 purposefully for the systematic destruction of human beings;

65 (f) Holocaust history is the proper concern of all  
66 people, particularly students enrolled in the schools, colleges  
67 and universities of the State of Mississippi;

68 (g) Programs, workshops, institutes, seminars,  
69 exhibits, and other teacher-training activities for the study of  
70 Holocausts have taken place during recent years at various middle  
71 schools, high schools, colleges and universities in this state;  
72 and

73 (h) It is desirable to create a permanent state  
74 commission, which as an organized body and on a continuous basis,  
75 will survey, design, encourage and promote implementation of  
76 Holocaust education and awareness programs in Mississippi, and  
77 will be responsible for organizing and promoting the  
78 memorialization of the Nazi Holocaust and other Holocausts on a  
79 regular basis throughout the state.

80 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Commission  
81 on Holocausts in the executive branch of state government. The  
82 commission shall be assigned to the Office of the Secretary of  
83 State for administrative purposes only.

84 (2) The commission shall be composed of the following  
85 members:

86                   (a) Ex officio members as follows:

87                    (i) The State Superintendent of Public Education

88 or his or her designee;

89                    (ii) Commissioner of Institutions of Higher

90 Learning or his or her designee;

91                   (b) Public members as follows:

92                    (i) Seven (7) public members, at least one (1)

93 from each of the congressional districts, to be appointed by the

94 Governor;

95                    (ii) Five (5) public members, at least one (1)

96 from each of the congressional districts, to be appointed by the

97 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

98                    (iii) Five (5) public members, at least one (1)

99 from each of the congressional districts, to be appointed by the

100 Lieutenant Governor.

101                   (c) The public members of the commission shall be

102 residents of this state and shall be appointed with due regard for

103 broad geographic representation. The public members should

104 include, but are not be limited to, the following:

105                    (i) Individuals who have served prominently as

106 spokespersons for or as leaders of organizations or corporations

107 that serve members of religious, ethnic, national heritage, or

108 social groups that were subjected to genocide, torture, wrongful

109 deprivation of liberty or property, officially imposed or

110 sanctioned violence, and other forms of human rights violations

111 and persecution at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators

112 during the Nazi era;

113                    (ii) Individuals who are experienced in the field

114 of Holocaust education;

115                    (iii) Individuals who represent liberators of

116 victims of Holocausts; or

117                   (iv) Lay persons who have an interest in Holocaust  
118 education.

119                   (d) Public members of the commission shall be appointed  
120 for the terms of five (5) years and until their respective  
121 successors are appointed and qualified. Public members may be  
122 eligible for reappointment. The office of any member of the  
123 commission who fails to attend more than two (2) consecutive  
124 meetings of the commission without an excuse approved by a  
125 resolution of the commission shall become vacant. All vacancies  
126 shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the original  
127 appointment, and the person appointed to fill a vacancy shall  
128 serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

129                   (e) The commission shall have a chairperson who shall  
130 be appointed by the Governor for a term of five (5) years and  
131 until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.

132                   (f) Seven (7) members of the commission shall  
133 constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the  
134 commission. Public members shall have the right to vote on any  
135 matter before the commission, but ex officio members and their  
136 designees shall not have the right to vote.

137                   (g) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
138 appoint a member of the House of Representatives and the  
139 Lieutenant Governor shall appoint a member of the Senate to serve  
140 as advisors to the commission.

141                   (3) The Mississippi Commission on Holocausts shall adopt  
142 rules and regulations and set standards and policies for the  
143 organization, operation, management, budgeting and programs of the  
144 commission.

145                   (a) The commission shall provide, based upon the  
146 collective knowledge and experience of its members, assistance and  
147 advice to public and private schools, colleges and universities

148 with respect to the implementation of Holocaust education and  
149 awareness programs.

150 (b) The commission shall meet with appropriate  
151 education officials and other interested public and private  
152 organizations, including service organizations, for the purpose of  
153 providing information, planning, coordination, or modification of  
154 courses of study or programs dealing with the subject of  
155 Holocausts.

156 (c) The commission shall survey and catalogue the  
157 extent of Holocausts and genocide education presently being  
158 incorporated into the curricula and taught in the educational  
159 system of this state.

160 (d) The commission shall inventory those Holocaust  
161 memorials, exhibits and resources that could not be incorporated  
162 into courses of study or programs at various locations and other  
163 educational agencies for the development and implementation of  
164 Holocaust and genocide education programs. In furtherance of this  
165 responsibility, the commission may contact and cooperate with  
166 existing Holocaust and genocide public and private nonprofit  
167 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning  
168 Holocaust and genocide education or members of the United States  
169 Senate and House of Representatives, the Mississippi Senate and  
170 House of Representatives, the United States Holocaust Memorial  
171 Museum and other national and international Holocaust agencies.

172 (e) The commission shall compile a roster of individual  
173 volunteers who are willing to share their verifiable knowledge and  
174 experience in classrooms, seminars and workshops on the subject of  
175 Holocausts. The volunteers may be survivors of Holocausts,  
176 liberators of concentration camps, scholars, members of the  
177 clergy, community relations professionals, and other persons who,  
178 by virtue of their experience, education, or interest, have  
179 experience with Holocausts.

180           (f) The commission shall coordinate events  
181 memorializing Holocausts and seeks volunteers who are willing and  
182 able to participate in commemorative events that will enhance  
183 public awareness of the significance of Holocausts.

184           (g) The commission shall prepare reports for the  
185 Governor and the Legislature regarding its findings and  
186 recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of Holocaust studies  
187 and special programs memorializing Holocausts in educational  
188 systems of this state.

189           (h) The commission shall appoint advisory committees to  
190 advise the commission on the fulfillment of its duties.

191           (4) The commission may receive gifts, grants and donations  
192 from any public or private sources. Members of the commission may  
193 not be compensated for the performance of their duties except from  
194 funds that are specifically appropriated therefor by the  
195 Legislature or from gifts, grants or donations.

196           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
197 and after July 1, 2004.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1           AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUSTS; TO  
2 PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
3 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.