

By: Representative Banks

To: Constitution; Judiciary
B

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE THAT SUFFRAGE
3 SHALL BE RESTORED TO PERSONS CONVICTED FOR THE FIRST TIME OF
4 CRIMES UPON COMPLETION OF 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any person
25 who has been convicted for a first felony conviction of murder,
26 rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false
27 pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy who has
28 completed the sentence imposed for such crime."

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be
30 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at
31 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
32 of November 2005, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution
33 and by general law.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
35 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
36 constitutional amendment will allow persons who have been
37 convicted for a first felony conviction of murder, rape, bribery,
38 theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretence,
39 perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy to have their suffrage
40 restored upon completion of sentence."