

By: Representative Dedeaux

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1438

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON CIVICS EDUCATION; TO
2 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF
3 CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF THE DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF
4 CITIZENSHIP AND STATE AND LOCAL CIVIC AFFAIRS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
5 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION; TO REQUIRE THE
6 COMMISSION TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE OUTLINING ITS
7 FINDINGS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES THAT MAY BE TAKEN
8 TO IMPROVE CIVICS KNOWLEDGE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008; AND FOR
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Commission on Civics
12 Education. The commission shall assess the level of understanding
13 of citizens throughout the state of the duties and rights of
14 citizenship, as well as their general knowledge of state and local
15 civic affairs. Based upon its findings, the commission shall
16 prepare a report making recommendations on specific measures that
17 can be taken to improve the overall knowledge of civic matters of
18 citizens throughout the state. The report, along with any
19 recommended legislation, must be submitted to the Legislature
20 before January 1, 2008.

21 (2) The Commission on Civics Education shall be comprised of
22 three (3) members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives,
23 Lieutenant Governor and Governor shall each appoint (1) resident
24 of the state, with due regard for broad geographic representation,
25 to serve on the commission. The commission shall select one (1)
26 member to serve as chairperson of the commission, and two (2)
27 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
28 transaction of the business. Members of the commission may not be
29 compensated for the performance of their duties except from any
30 funds that are specifically available for that purpose.

31 (3) Upon the submission of its report to the Legislature,
32 the Commission on Civics Education shall be dissolved.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
34 and after July 1, 2007.