

By: Representatives Paden, Bell (65th),  
Denton, Dortch, Hines, Myers

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1539

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO SELECT THE DESIGN FOR A NEW  
2 MISSISSIPPI FLAG; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE MEETINGS  
3 OF THE COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE EACH PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND EACH  
4 PUBLIC COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE TO SUBMIT ONE DESIGN FOR A NEW  
5 MISSISSIPPI FLAG TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS CONSIDERATION; TO  
6 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG THE SUBMITTED  
7 DESIGNS THE ONE THAT BEST REFLECTS BOTH THE HISTORY OF THE STATE  
8 OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE DIVERSITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATE;  
9 TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT  
10 FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2017, THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF THE STATE OF  
11 MISSISSIPPI SHALL HAVE THE DESIGN THAT WAS SELECTED BY THE  
12 COMMISSION UNDER THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established a commission to select  
15 the design for a new Mississippi flag that will reflect both the  
16 history of the State of Mississippi and the diversity of the  
17 population of the state.

18 (2) The commission shall consist of the following thirteen  
19 (13) members:

20 (a) Five (5) members appointed by the Governor, with  
21 one (1) member to be appointed from each congressional district as  
22 constituted on January 1, 2016, and one (1) member to be appointed  
23 from the state at large;



24 (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Mississippi  
25 Senate;

26 (c) The Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of  
27 Representatives;

28 (d) Three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant  
29 Governor of the State of Mississippi as follows:

30 (i) A member of the Mississippi Senate; and

31 (ii) Two (2) members of the general public; and

32 (e) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the  
33 Mississippi House of Representatives as follows:

34 (i) One (1) member of the Mississippi House of  
35 Representatives; and

36 (ii) Two (2) members of the general public.

37 (3) The appointments shall be made not later than forty-five  
38 (45) days after the effective date of this act. Within fifteen  
39 (15) days thereafter, on a day to be designated jointly by the  
40 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House,  
41 the commission shall meet and organize by selecting from its  
42 membership a chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman also  
43 shall serve as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all  
44 records of the commission. The commission shall meet no more than  
45 once per month. A majority of the members of the commission shall  
46 constitute a quorum at all meetings. An affirmative vote of a  
47 majority of the members present and voting shall be required in  
48 the adoption of any actions taken by the commission. All members



49 shall be notified in writing of all regular and special meetings  
50 of the commission, which notices shall be mailed at least ten (10)  
51 days before the dates of the meetings. All meetings shall take  
52 place at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi.

53 (4) Members of the commission shall not receive  
54 compensation. However, each member may be paid travel expenses  
55 and meals and lodging expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, for  
56 such expenses incurred in furtherance of their duties. Travel  
57 expenses and meals and lodging expenses and other necessary  
58 expenses incurred by the commission shall be paid out of funds  
59 appropriated to the Governor's Office.

60 (5) In carrying out the provisions of this act, the  
61 commission may use the services, facilities and personnel of all  
62 departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state.

63 (6) Each public university and each public community or  
64 junior college in the state may submit one (1) design for a new  
65 Mississippi flag, which design has been selected in accordance  
66 with the process determined by each respective university or  
67 community or junior college, to the commission for its  
68 consideration. All designs that will be considered by the  
69 commission must be submitted to the commission not later than  
70 October 15, 2016.

71 (7) After carefully reviewing all of the designs that were  
72 submitted under subsection (5) of this section, the commission  
73 shall select from among the submitted designs the one (1) that, in



74 its judgment, best reflects both the history of the State of  
75 Mississippi and the diversity of the population of the state. The  
76 commission shall file its selection of the design of the new  
77 Mississippi flag with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of  
78 the House not later than January 1, 2017. The commission shall be  
79 dissolved once its selection of the design has been filed.

80 **SECTION 2.** Section 3-3-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
81 amended as follows:

82 3-3-16. From and after January 1, 2017, the official flag of  
83 the State of Mississippi shall have the \* \* \* design \* \* \* that  
84 was selected by the commission established under Section 1 of this  
85 act.

86 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
87 and after its passage.

