

By: Representative Hines

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1545

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO REDESIGN THE MISSISSIPPI
 2 STATE FLAG; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND TO
 3 PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
 4 REDESIGNED MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL
 5 NOT INCLUDE THE DESIGN OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG; TO PROVIDE
 6 THAT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE PRESENTED TO
 7 THE 2017 REGULAR SESSION IN ORDER TO BE UNVEILED AT THE
 8 BICENTENNIAL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ON DECEMBER 10, 2017; AND
 9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Commission to
 12 Redesign the Mississippi State Flag (commission) with the sole
 13 purpose of developing, designing and reporting to the Governor and
 14 the Legislature a new design for the official Mississippi State
 15 Flag on or before December 10, 2016. The new Mississippi State
 16 Flag shall be unveiled at appropriate ceremonies on the State's
 17 Bicentennial Celebration on December 10, 2017. The new
 18 Mississippi State Flag adopted by the commission shall not include
 19 the design of the Confederate Battle Flag. The commission is
 20 charged with a sensitive and responsible task that it shall
 21 conduct in an objective manner. The redesigned Mississippi State



22 Flag shall honor the past while embracing the promise of the
23 future.

24 (2) The Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag
25 shall be appointed as follows:

26 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
27 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

28 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
29 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

30 (c) Eleven (11) members appointed by the Governor, to
31 include:

32 (i) Two (2) high school students;

33 (ii) A Mississippi public schoolteacher and a
34 Mississippi public university instructor;

35 (iii) A representative from the Mississippi
36 Economic Council;

37 (iv) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
38 Commission;

39 (v) Two (2) representatives from the Board of
40 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History;

41 (vi) A representative from business and industry;

42 and

43 (vii) Two (2) members from the state at large.

44 All appointments shall be made by July 1, 2016. The chairman
45 of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor from the
46 members of the commission. The commission shall meet as soon as



47 practicable after appointments have been made upon the call of the
48 chairman, and shall organize for business. A quorum of the
49 appointed membership of the commission shall be required for the
50 adoption of any reports and recommendations. The Mississippi
51 Department of Archives and History shall provide meeting space and
52 clerical support for the operation of the commission.

53 (3) The Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag
54 shall have the following functions and duties:

55 (a) To hold regular, public meetings when and where it
56 sees fit;

57 (b) To receive written, public comment, in a manner it
58 sees fit, and to hold public hearings, under the terms and
59 conditions it determines and sees fit;

60 (c) To collect, examine and consider all information
61 which it determines may be helpful in making a recommendation on
62 use and adoption of Mississippi's state flag;

63 (d) To consult with historical experts, social science
64 experts, representatives of organizations and associations, and
65 others, as it sees fit, whose knowledge or expertise may assist
66 the commission in making its recommendation;

67 (e) To make any inquiries and conduct any business that
68 may assist the commission in submitting a design for a state flag;
69 however, the new Mississippi State Flag adopted by the commission
70 shall not include the design of the Confederate Battle Flag;



71 (f) Keep minutes of its meetings, and make those
72 minutes available to the public; and

73 (g) To make a written recommendation for a new design
74 for the official Mississippi State Flag and an oral presentation
75 if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the
76 Speaker of the House on or before December 10, 2016.

77 (4) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
78 for service on the commission but may receive reasonable
79 reimbursement for actual expenses to the extent funds are
80 available for that purpose.

81 (5) The state flag currently in use shall remain in use
82 until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the
83 report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to
84 act. It is the intent of the Legislature to unveil a redesigned
85 State Flag at appropriate ceremonies at the State's Bicentennial
86 Celebration on December 10, 2017.

87 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
88 and after July 1, 2016.

