

By: Representatives Clark, Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1552

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 COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP TWO OPTIONS FOR A NEW DESIGN OF THE
 5 MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG; TO PROVIDE THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHALL
 6 DETERMINE WHICH OF THE TWO OPTIONS SHALL BE THE NEW MISSISSIPPI
 7 STATE FLAG DURING THE 2017 SESSION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TWO
 8 OPTIONS FOR A NEW MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
 9 SHALL NOT INCLUDE THE DESIGN OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG; TO
 10 PROVIDE THAT THE NEW MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG SHALL BE UNVEILED AT
 11 CEREMONIES ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ON
 12 DECEMBER 10, 2017; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Commission to
 15 Redesign the Mississippi State Flag (commission) with the sole
 16 purpose of developing, designing and reporting to the Governor and
 17 the Legislature two (2) options for a new design for the official
 18 Mississippi State Flag on or before December 10, 2016. The
 19 Legislature shall determine which of the two (2) options shall be
 20 the new Mississippi State Flag during the 2017 Regular Session.
 21 The new Mississippi State Flag shall be unveiled at appropriate
 22 ceremonies on the State's Bicentennial Celebration on December 10,
 23 2017. The two (2) options for a new Mississippi State Flag that



24 are adopted by the commission shall not include the design of the
25 Confederate Battle Flag. The commission is charged with a
26 sensitive and responsible task that it shall conduct in an
27 objective manner. The two (2) options for a new Mississippi State
28 Flag shall honor the past while embracing the promise of the
29 future.

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

32 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
33 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

34 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
35 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

36 (c) Eleven (11) members appointed by the Governor, to
37 include:

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

39 (ii) A Mississippi public schoolteacher and a
40 Mississippi public university instructor;

41 (iii) A representative from the Mississippi
42 Economic Council;

43 (iv) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
44 Commission;

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

47 (vi) A representative from business and industry;

48 and



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

50 All appointments shall be made by July 1, 2016. The chairman
51 of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor from the
52 members of the commission. The commission shall meet as soon as
53 practicable after appointments have been made upon the call of the
54 chairman, and shall organize for business. A quorum of the
55 appointed membership of the commission shall be required for the
56 adoption of any reports and recommendations. The Mississippi
57 Department of Archives and History shall provide meeting space and
58 clerical support for the operation of the commission.

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

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

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

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

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



73 (e) To make any inquiries and conduct any business that
74 may assist the commission in submitting a design for a state flag;
75 however, the two (2) options for a new Mississippi State Flag
76 adopted by the commission shall not include the design of the
77 Confederate Battle Flag;

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

80 (g) To make a written recommendation for two (2)
81 options for a new Mississippi State Flag, and an oral presentation
82 if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the
83 Speaker of the House on or before January 1, 2017.

84 (4) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
85 for service on the commission but may receive reasonable
86 reimbursement for actual expenses to the extent funds are
87 available for that purpose.

88 (5) The state flag currently in use shall remain in use
89 until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the
90 report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to
91 act.

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

