

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Frazier, Jackson  
(11th), Jordan, Witherspoon, Turner, Barnett

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2147

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 hereby established the Commission  
12 to 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 provided, however, that the new Mississippi State Flag adopted by  
70 the commission shall not include the design of the Confederate  
71 Battle Flag;



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

74 (g) To make a written recommendation, and oral  
75 presentation if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant  
76 Governor and the Speaker of the House on or before January 1,  
77 2017.

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

82 (5) The state flag currently in use shall remain in use  
83 until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the  
84 report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to  
85 act.

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

