

By: Representative Hines

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1276

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 2018 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED
 8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Commission to
 11 Redesign the Mississippi State Flag (commission) with the sole
 12 purpose of developing, designing and reporting to the Governor and
 13 the Legislature a new design for the official Mississippi State
 14 Flag on or before January 1, 2018. The new Mississippi State Flag
 15 adopted by the commission shall not include the design of the
 16 Confederate Battle Flag. The commission is charged with a
 17 sensitive and responsible task that it shall conduct in an
 18 objective manner. The redesigned Mississippi State Flag shall
 19 honor the past while embracing the promise of the future.

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



- 22 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
23 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 24 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
25 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 26 (c) Eleven (11) members appointed by the Governor, to
27 include:
- 28 (i) Two (2) high school students;
- 29 (ii) A Mississippi public schoolteacher and a
30 Mississippi public university instructor;
- 31 (iii) A representative from the Mississippi
32 Economic Council;
- 33 (iv) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
34 Commission;
- 35 (v) Two (2) representatives from the Board of
36 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History;
- 37 (vi) A representative from business and industry;
- 38 and
- 39 (vii) Two (2) members from the state at large.

40 All appointments shall be made by July 1, 2017. The chairman
41 of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor from the
42 members of the commission. The commission shall meet as soon as
43 practicable after appointments have been made upon the call of the
44 chairman, and shall organize for business. A quorum of the
45 appointed membership of the commission shall be required for the
46 adoption of any reports and recommendations. The Mississippi



47 Department of Archives and History shall provide meeting space and
48 clerical support for the operation of the commission.

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

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

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

56 (c) To collect, examine and consider all information
57 which it determines may be helpful in making a recommendation on
58 use and adoption of Mississippi's State Flag;

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

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

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

69 (g) To make a written recommendation for a new design
70 for the official Mississippi State Flag and an oral presentation



71 if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the
72 Speaker of the House on or before January 1, 2018.

73 (4) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
74 for service on the commission but may receive reimbursement for
75 mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, to the
76 extent funds are available for that purpose.

77 (5) The state flag currently in use shall remain in use
78 until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the
79 report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to
80 act.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
82 and after July 1, 2017.

