

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2522

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; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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



20 Flag shall honor the past while embracing the promise of the
21 future.

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

24 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
25 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

26 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
27 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

28 (c) Eleven (11) members appointed by the Governor, to
29 include:

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

31 (ii) A Mississippi public schoolteacher and a
32 Mississippi public university instructor;

33 (iii) A representative from the Mississippi
34 Economic Council;

35 (iv) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
36 Commission;

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

39 (vi) A representative from business and industry;

40 and

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

42 All appointments shall be made by July 1, 2017. The chairman
43 of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor from the
44 members of the commission. The commission shall meet as soon as



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

72 (g) To make a written recommendation, and oral
73 presentation if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant
74 Governor and the Speaker of the House on or before January 1,
75 2018.

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

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

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

