

By: Representative Snowden

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 372

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT THE HISTORICAL MAGNOLIA FLAG WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL
 3 DESIGN OF THE OFFICIAL STATE FLAG; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH OF THE
 4 DESIGNS OF THE OFFICIAL FLAG WILL BE OF EQUAL STATUS AND DIGNITY
 5 IN REPRESENTING THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND EACH DESIGN MAY BE
 6 FLOWN INDIVIDUALLY AS THE OFFICIAL FLAG OR THEY MAY BE FLOWN
 7 TOGETHER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 WHEREAS, on December 10, 1817, Mississippi was admitted to
 9 the United States as the 20th state of the Union, and in 2017, the
 10 State of Mississippi celebrated its bicentennial as a state; and

11 WHEREAS, as we are entering our third century of statehood,
 12 we also reflect back upon our long and eventful history, and
 13 desire to adopt a distinctive symbol of our statehood with
 14 meaningful roots in our state's history to coincide with our
 15 bicentennial; and

16 WHEREAS, Mississippi did not have an official state flag in
 17 its early years of statehood, and it was not until 1861 that the
 18 first official flag was adopted, the Magnolia Flag, which flew as
 19 the official state flag from 1861 through 1865 and continued in
 20 use as a state flag until 1894; and



21 WHEREAS, the original state flag of Mississippi is a
22 distinctive symbol of our state that represents and honors our
23 history, and we feel that it is most appropriate to adopt the
24 historical Magnolia Flag as an additional design of the official
25 state flag that may be flown with equal status and dignity to
26 represent our state as we are beginning our third century as a
27 member of the United States; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

29 **SECTION 1.** Section 3-3-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
30 amended as follows:

31 3-3-16. (1) The official flag of the State of Mississippi
32 shall * * * be each of the following designs:

33 (a) With width two-thirds (2/3) of its length; with the
34 union (canton) to be square, in width two-thirds (2/3) of the
35 width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad
36 blue saltire thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with
37 thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with
38 the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be
39 divided into three (3) bars of equal width, the upper one blue,
40 the center one white, and the lower one, extending the whole
41 length of the flag, red (the national colors); this being the flag
42 adopted by the Mississippi Legislature in the 1894 Special
43 Session * * *; and

44 (b) The width is two-thirds (2/3) of its length; the
45 canton is square, having a width one-third (1/3) of the width of



46 the flag; the color of the canton is dark blue with a five-pointed
47 white star in the center; the field is white with a dark green
48 tree of the Magnolia grandiflora with white flowers, located in
49 the center of the fly; and a vertical red bar is on the edge of
50 the fly; this being the Magnolia Flag that was the first official
51 flag of the State of Mississippi from 1861 through 1865 and
52 continued in use as a state flag until 1894.

53 (2) Each of the designs of the official flag shall be of
54 equal status and dignity in representing the State of Mississippi,
55 and each design may be flown individually as the official flag or
56 they may be flown together. The inclusion in this section of the
57 Magnolia Flag as an additional design of the official state flag
58 does not lessen the status of the 1894 flag as also being the
59 official state flag.

60 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2018.

