

By: Representative Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CHANGE THE DESIGN OF THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF THE STATE OF
3 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROHIBIT THE PREVIOUS OFFICIAL STATE FLAG FROM
4 BEING FLOWN OR DISPLAYED ON OR IN ANY PUBLIC BUILDING OR OTHER
5 PUBLIC PROPERTY, EXCEPT IN A HISTORICAL EXHIBIT IN A PUBLIC
6 MUSEUM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 3-3-16. The official flag of the State of Mississippi shall
11 have the following design: * * * with width two-thirds (2/3) of
12 its length; the union (canton) to be square, bordered with white
13 on the fly side and the bottom side, in width two-thirds (2/3) the
14 width of the flag, the ground of the union to be old glory blue,
15 and emblazoned with an outer circle of thirteen (13) five-pointed
16 stars, an inner circle of six (6) five-pointed stars and a single
17 large five-pointed star in the center; the stars in the inner and
18 outer circle to be one-twelfth (1/12) the width of the flag, and
19 the center star to be one-eighth (1/8) the width of the flag, with
20 all stars to be pointed upward; the field to be divided into three



21 (3) bars of equal width, the upper one (1) old glory blue, the
22 center one (1) white and the lower one (1) old glory red. The
23 nineteen (19) stars surrounding the center star represent the
24 first nineteen (19) states admitted to the United States. The
25 center star represents the State of Mississippi and symbolizes
26 that Mississippi was the twentieth state admitted to the United
27 States.

28 **SECTION 2.** (1) The flag that was the official flag of the
29 State of Mississippi immediately before July 1, 2018, as described
30 in subsection (2) of this section, may not be flown or displayed
31 on or in any public building or other public property, except in a
32 historical exhibit in a public museum. The appropriate public
33 agency or public official having jurisdiction over a public
34 building or public property shall enforce the provisions of this
35 section.

36 (2) The flag that was the official flag of the State of
37 Mississippi before July 1, 2018, had the following design: with
38 width two-thirds (2/3) of its length; with the union (canton) to
39 be square, in width two-thirds (2/3) of the width of the flag; the
40 ground of the union to be red and a broad blue saltire thereon,
41 bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets or
42 five-pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original
43 States of the Union; the field to be divided into three (3) bars
44 of equal width, the upper one (1) blue, the center one (1) white,



45 and the lower one (1), extending the whole length of the flag, red
46 (the national colors).

47 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2018.

