

By: Representative Bell (65th)

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1263

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 2019 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, 2019. 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 consist of seventeen (17) members, to be appointed as
22 follows:

23 (a) Four (4) members of the Mississippi House of
24 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

25 (b) Four (4) members of the Mississippi Senate
26 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

27 (c) Nine (9) members appointed by the Governor, to
28 include:

29 (i) A Mississippi public schoolteacher and a
30 Mississippi public university instructor;

31 (ii) A representative from the Mississippi
32 Economic Council;

33 (iii) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
34 Commission;

35 (iv) Two (2) representatives from the Board of
36 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History;

37 (v) A representative from business and industry;
38 and

39 (vi) Two (2) members from the state at large.

40 All appointments shall be made not later than sixty (60) days
41 after the effective date of this act. The chair of the commission
42 shall be appointed by the Governor from the members of the
43 commission. The commission shall meet as soon as practicable
44 after appointments have been made upon the call of the chair, and



45 shall organize for business. A quorum of the appointed membership
46 of the commission shall be required for the adoption of any
47 reports and recommendations. The Mississippi Department of
48 Archives and History shall provide meeting space and clerical
49 support for the operation of the commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



70 (g) To make a written recommendation for a new design
71 for the official Mississippi State Flag and an oral presentation
72 if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the
73 Speaker of the House on or before January 1, 2019.

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

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

82 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after its passage.

