

By: Representatives Sanford, Barnett, Haney, Rogers (14th) To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE STATE LIBRARY UPON
2 THE SPECTACULAR OCCASION OF ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2018, the State Library will
4 celebrate the marvelous occasion of its 200th anniversary,
5 honoring its two centuries of outstanding service to the State of
6 Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, while officially established by an act of the
8 Legislature in 1838, the State Library traces its inception to a
9 resolution passed by the Legislature on January 31, 1818, for the
10 purchase of the state's first collection of books and maps; and

11 WHEREAS, by 1891, the State Library was considered to be the
12 second finest library of its kind in the Union, outranked only by
13 the Massachusetts Library, with the emphasis of the library's
14 collection being legal works, and also containing material on
15 travel, medicine, biography, church history and many other topics;
16 and 70 years later, in 1961, the State Library achieved notoriety
17 once again by being recognized as the third largest law library in
18 the United States; and



19 WHEREAS, first located in the Old Capitol building, the State
20 Library later relocated to the New Capitol building, until 1973,
21 when it moved to the Carroll Gartin Justice Building, and then
22 relocated once again in 2008 to the new Carroll Gartin Justice
23 Building, where it is currently situated; and

24 WHEREAS, by an 1860 act of the Legislature, the State Library
25 was placed under the control of the Trustees of the Library, its
26 members at that time being the Governor, Judges of the High Court
27 of Errors and Appeals and the Attorney General; and, in 1989, the
28 Legislature placed the State Library under the control of the
29 Mississippi Supreme Court; and

30 WHEREAS, the State Librarian has been elected by the
31 Legislature since 1842, with the current State Librarian, Stephen
32 Parks, being chosen by the Supreme Court and elected by the
33 Legislature in 2016; historically, however, in 1820 and 1828,
34 legislation directed the Secretary of State to be the State
35 Librarian, and for a time, the State Librarian and the Keeper of
36 the Capitol were one and the same, until the 1890 Constitution
37 separated the two offices, with the Secretary of State becoming
38 Keeper of the Capitol; and

39 WHEREAS, in 1876, the State Librarian was a woman, appointed
40 by a man who was selected by the Legislature, until 1892, when,
41 for the first time, a woman was a candidate for the position of
42 State Librarian and was re-elected in her own name; and the
43 Mississippi Constitution of 1890 stated that any woman of the age



44 of 20 years was eligible for the office, until it was amended in
45 1978 to remove the specific qualifications for the position; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1938, the Legislature created the Legislative
47 Reference Bureau and placed it under the State Library's
48 supervision for the members of the Legislature, the Governor and
49 the various departments, institutions and agencies of the state to
50 use, with the State Librarian being its director, until 1980, when
51 the Legislative Reference Bureau was placed under the supervision
52 of the Legislature itself; and

53 WHEREAS, for 200 years each State Librarian has contributed
54 tremendously to the development of a rich heritage of primary
55 legal materials for the State Library's collection, with many
56 volumes being original printings, including English and Canadian
57 court reports from 1801 to 1982; the Congressional Record from
58 1789 to current issues; the Federal Register from 1936 to current
59 issues; selected U.S. Government depository items since the
60 mid-1880s and an extensive collection of Mississippi primary and
61 secondary legal resources; and

62 WHEREAS, being a federal depository library of the Third U.S.
63 Congressional District of the State of Mississippi since the
64 mid-1880s, the State Library's mission is to provide law library
65 services to the Mississippi Supreme Court and other state courts,
66 to state officials and to the general public; and

67 WHEREAS, the State Library has received recognition within
68 the past year by being awarded the Excellence in Marketing Award



69 and Best Newsletter from the American Association of Law
70 Libraries, and has received further recognition when the State
71 Librarian, Stephen Parks, testified before the congressional
72 Committee on House Administration regarding proposed changes to
73 the Federal Depository Library Program; and

74 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
75 and commend outstanding institutions in Mississippi that have left
76 a profound impact on its citizens and continue to serve a
77 positive, vital role in present and future vitality and
78 sustainability of this great Magnolia State:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
80 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
81 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize and celebrate the 200th
82 anniversary of the State Library and express best wishes for its
83 continued success.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to the State Librarian and to the members of the Capitol
86 Press Corps.

