

By: Senator(s) Hill, Parker, Fillingane,
Caughman

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 551

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO CREATE NEW ARTICLE 16,
2 SECTION 290 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, OFFERED BY
3 THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INITIATIVE
4 MEASURE NO. 65, TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE, BY GENERAL
5 LAW, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM FOR THE
6 PURPOSE OF OFFERING TREATMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI PATIENTS SUFFERING
7 CHRONIC, DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

9 WHEREAS, under Section 273 of the Mississippi Constitution of
10 1890, the people have the power to propose and enact
11 constitutional amendments by initiative, and the procedure for
12 doing so is set forth in Chapter 17, Title 23, Mississippi Code of
13 1972.

14 WHEREAS, following those provisions, the people have proposed
15 Initiative Measure No. 65, which has a subject matter stated to be
16 "provision of a state medical marijuana program," and this
17 initiative measure will be presented to the qualified electors at
18 the November 2020 election.

19 WHEREAS, when an initiative measure is proposed under this
20 procedure, the Legislature may submit an alternative measure for
21 the original initiative measure, which must be presented to the



22 qualified electors at the same election at which the original
23 measure is proposed, and under Section 23-17-29, Mississippi Code
24 of 1972, such a constitutional initiative may be adopted or
25 amended by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
27 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the
28 Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified
29 electors of the state at the November 2020 election, as an
30 alternative to the amendment proposed by Initiative Measure No.
31 65:

32 Article 16, Section 290, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, is
33 created to read as follows:

34 Section 290. (1) This section shall be known and may be
35 cited as the "Mississippi Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2020."

36 (2) The Legislature shall:

37 (a) Establish a medical marijuana program for the
38 purpose of offering treatment for Mississippi residents suffering
39 from chronic, debilitating medical conditions;

40 (b) Allow Mississippi patients with chronic,
41 debilitating medical conditions to use and safely access marijuana
42 for medical purposes if those patients are under the supervision
43 of a licensed Mississippi physician; and

44 (c) Enact necessary and appropriate legislation to
45 enable this section at the 2021 Regular Session of the
46 Legislature.



47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendment proposed in this
48 resolution as a legislative alternative to Initiative Measure No.
49 65 shall be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified
50 electors at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the
51 first Monday of November 2020, in the manner prescribed by Section
52 273 of the Constitution and by Chapter 17, Title 23, Mississippi
53 Code of 1972.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ballot title for this
55 amendment is proposed to read as follows: "Shall Mississippi
56 legalize medical marijuana for cancer patients and others
57 suffering from chronic medical conditions who are under the
58 supervision of a Mississippi licensed physician?"

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
60 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This
61 constitutional amendment is proposed as a legislative alternative
62 measure to Initiative Measure No. 65 and would require the
63 Legislature to create, by general law, a state medical marijuana
64 program for the alleviation of chronic medical suffering of
65 patients who are under the supervision of a Mississippi licensed
66 physician."

