

By: Representatives Karriem, Taylor

To: Constitution; Judiciary  
B

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 253, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
3 AUTOMATIC RESTORATION OF SUFFRAGE TO ANY PERSON DISQUALIFIED BY  
4 REASON OF A NONVIOLENT CRIME, AFTER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS FROM  
5 THE COMPLETION OF ANY SENTENCE, PROBATION AND/OR PAYMENT OF  
6 RESTITUTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
8 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi  
9 Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the  
10 state:

11 Amend Section 253, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
12 as follows:

13 "Section 253. The right of suffrage is restored  
14 automatically to any person disqualified by reason of a nonviolent  
15 crime after a period of five (5) years from the completion of any  
16 applicable sentence, probation and/or payment of restitution  
17 related to the nonviolent crime. The Legislature may, by a  
18 two-thirds (2/3) vote of both houses, of all members elected,  
19 restore the right of suffrage to any person disqualified by reason



20 of a violent crime; but the reasons therefor shall be spread upon  
21 the journals, and the vote shall be by yeas and nays."

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be  
23 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at  
24 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday  
25 of November 2022, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution  
26 and by general law.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
28 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
29 constitutional amendment provides for the automatic restoration of  
30 suffrage to any person disqualified by reason of a nonviolent  
31 crime after a period of five (5) years from the completion of any  
32 sentence, probation and/or payment of restitution. The  
33 restoration of suffrage for persons disqualified for violent  
34 crimes would still require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both houses  
35 of the Legislature."

