

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SENATE RULE 65 TO PROVIDE FOR THE
2 REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE RULES COMMITTEE.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
4 MISSISSIPPI, That Senate Rule 65 is amended to read as follows:

5 **RULES COMMITTEE**

6 65. (1) (a) There shall be a standing Committee on Rules
7 which shall consist of the President (who shall be a nonvoting
8 member), the President Pro Tempore, and four (4) Senators, each
9 having served at least four (4) years in the Senate, one (1) from
10 each congressional district of the state as constituted on January
11 1, 2004, to be selected by the Senators from their respective
12 congressional districts by caucus. Each congressional district
13 caucus shall hold an organizational meeting and shall elect a
14 chairman and vice chairman of the caucus. Meetings of the caucus
15 may be called at any time by the chairman or if requested by a
16 majority of the caucus. The voting precinct of the Senator * * *
17 shall determine the congressional district caucus in which the
18 Senator shall participate and for which the Senator may hold



19 membership on the Rules Committee. A Senator representing a
20 congressional district on the Rules Committee may be removed at
21 any time by a caucus vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the
22 Senators from his respective congressional district.

23 (b) The President Pro Tempore shall serve as Chairman
24 of the Rules Committee; the vice chairman shall be appointed by
25 the President Pro Tempore from among the Senators on the
26 committee.

27 (2) The Rules Committee shall, in addition to the functions
28 of a standing committee and any other responsibilities assigned by
29 the Senate, perform the following duties:

30 (a) Conduct the business affairs of the Senate;

31 (b) Pursuant to authority granted in Section 29-5-2,
32 Mississippi Code of 1972, assign such space in the Capitol or in
33 such other buildings or parts thereof as may be reserved for the
34 Senate and have complete control, authority and jurisdiction over
35 such rooms, chambers, offices and other areas. Any assignment of
36 space shall be subject to change by the Rules Committee. No other
37 branch of the government, or a department or agency thereof, shall
38 use any such room, chamber, office or other area without specific
39 written authorization from the Rules Committee. The Rules
40 Committee may delegate its powers with regard to any such room,
41 chamber, office or other area in connection with the use,
42 maintenance, repairing, construction, reconstruction and
43 refurbishing thereof in such a manner as it deems advisable;



44 (c) Assign staff for interim and special committees;
45 (d) Assign staff for standing committees;
46 (e) Continually assess ways and means to improve the
47 organization, procedures, facilities and working conditions of the
48 Senate;

49 (f) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5) for
50 the staffing of the office of the President and the office of the
51 President Pro Tempore, the Rules Committee shall have the
52 authority to employ all personnel necessary to execute the duties
53 and responsibilities of the Senate. Unless otherwise specifically
54 provided, the Rules Committee shall have full and exclusive
55 authority over the employees of the Senate. All such employees
56 shall serve at the pleasure of the Rules Committee. Complaints
57 with respect to any misconduct, inefficiency or omission by the
58 Secretary, the Sergeant-at-Arms or employees of the Senate shall
59 be heard by the Rules Committee, which may discharge the employees
60 therefor and may recommend to the full Senate the discharge of the
61 Secretary and the Sergeant-at-Arms;

62 (g) Fix the salaries of the Senate officials and
63 employees;

64 (h) Assign news, radio and television reporters wishing
65 to take down or broadcast the debates and proceedings of the
66 Senate, places in the Senate so as not to interfere with the
67 convenience of the Senate;



68 (i) Authorize the reimbursement of Senators and Senate
69 officials and employees who are required to travel in the
70 performance of their official duties. The Rules Committee may
71 establish regulations governing such travel which include the
72 prior approval of such travel by the Rules Committee. Senators
73 attending out-of-state conventions or conferences at state expense
74 shall make a report to the Senate, including the purpose, work and
75 recommendations resulting from the out-of-state meeting attended.
76 If more than one (1) Senator attends such convention or
77 conference, one (1) report may be made as the report of the
78 delegation; and

79 (j) Upon request of the chairman of any standing or
80 select committee of the Senate, authorize expenses, to include per
81 diem, mileage, meals and lodging, to be paid for members attending
82 the meeting of any such committee or subcommittee thereof during
83 the period in which the Legislature is not in session. The Rules
84 Committee may adopt rules and regulations concerning time, places
85 and number of meetings that may be held for which members will be
86 compensated, such rules and regulations to require prior approval
87 of meetings in order for members to be compensated.

88 (3) The committee may designate the Secretary of the Senate
89 to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the duties
90 assigned to the committee and for implementing the policies of the
91 committee adopted pursuant to this rule.



92 (4) The committee shall function on a year-round basis; and,
93 when the Legislature is not in session, members of the committee
94 shall be compensated as provided in Section 25-3-69, Mississippi
95 Code of 1972, for each day spent in actual discharge of their
96 duties and shall receive the expense allowance and mileage
97 reimbursement provided in Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of
98 1972. No committee member may incur per diem, travel or expense
99 allowance unless authorized by vote at a meeting of the committee,
100 which action shall be recorded in the official minutes of the
101 committee. The Rules Committee shall meet at such times as are
102 necessary for the proper exercise of its functions and may adopt
103 rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the rules of the
104 Senate, as it deems necessary for the efficient operation of the
105 committee. Action by a majority vote of the Rules Committee shall
106 be conclusive on any matter properly within the jurisdiction of
107 the committee.

108 (5) (a) In providing for the staffing of the President's
109 office, the Rules Committee shall fill up to eight (8) positions
110 when requested by the President, and the persons employed for such
111 positions shall be hired with the approval of the President. The
112 President shall recommend the compensation to be paid to the
113 President's staff, and the Rules Committee may pay the
114 compensation so established.

115 (b) In providing for the staffing of the President Pro
116 Tempore's office, the Rules Committee shall fill one (1) staff



117 position as requested by the President Pro Tempore, and the person
118 employed for such position shall be hired with the approval of the
119 President Pro Tempore. The President Pro Tempore shall recommend
120 the compensation to be paid to the person so employed, and the
121 Rules Committee may pay the compensation so established.

122 (c) Persons employed under this subsection to staff the
123 President's office shall serve at the will and pleasure of the
124 President; persons employed to staff the President Pro Tempore's
125 office shall serve at the will and pleasure of the President Pro
126 Tempore.

127 (6) In providing for the staffing of committees, the Rules
128 Committee shall have the responsibility for determining the
129 necessity of any staff positions requested by the chairman of a
130 committee.

131 (7) The Rules Committee shall cooperate with the House
132 Management Committee in maintaining a Joint Legislative Printing
133 Office and a Reference Library which shall contain, but shall not
134 be limited to, study reports and information gathered by the
135 departments and the various committees of the Legislature so as to
136 provide a continuity of information from year to year.

137 (8) The Rules Committee shall have the responsibility for
138 the proper operation of the Senate Legislative Services Office.

139 (9) The Rules Committee shall have jurisdiction over any
140 questions concerning improper or unethical conduct by members of
141 the Senate.



142 (10) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
143 rule shall be paid from the Senate Contingent Fund.

144 (11) The Rules Committee may meet jointly with the House
145 Management Committee when necessary to more effectively carry out
146 the provisions of this rule.

