

By: Representative Bell (65th)

To: State Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 139

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION TO REDESIGNATE CONFEDERATE
 2 COUNTY NAMES IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
 3 COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE AND
 4 SUBMIT ITS INITIAL REPORT WITH A DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINDINGS,
 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE
 6 GOVERNOR NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2025; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
 7 COMMISSION SHALL CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE AND SHALL PREPARE AND
 8 SUBMIT A FOLLOW-UP REPORT ANNUALLY NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1 OF
 9 THE YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Commission to
 12 Redesignate Confederate County Names in Mississippi.

13 (2) The commission shall consist of eleven (11) members as
 14 follows:

15 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
 16 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

17 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
 18 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

19 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
 20 Department of Archives and History, or his designee;



21 (d) Two (2) representatives from the Board of Trustees
22 of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and

23 (e) Two (2) members from the state at large appointed
24 by the Governor, one (1) of whom shall be from business and
25 industry.

26 All appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
27 the effective date of this act.

28 (3) With the goal of increasing the economic viability and
29 appeal of counties within the state, the commission shall review
30 the names of confederacy related counties and shall make
31 recommendations as to (a) whether to change the names of such
32 counties and (b) if such a recommendation is made, provide
33 recommendations on proposed alternative names.

34 (4) The commission shall meet monthly and shall have its
35 first meeting no later than July 1, 2025. The first meeting of
36 the commission shall be called by the Executive Director of the
37 Mississippi Department of Archives and History who shall serve as
38 its chairman. At that first meeting, the commission shall elect
39 from among its membership a chairman and other officers, if any,
40 determined to be necessary. A majority of the membership of the
41 commission shall constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a
42 majority of the commission shall be required for all actions
43 taken. All members must be notified in writing of all meetings at
44 least five (5) days before the date on which a meeting of the
45 commission is scheduled.



46 (5) The members of the commission shall serve without
47 compensation, except the legislative members shall be reimbursed
48 at the same rate as for attending committee meetings when the
49 Legislature is not in session.

50 (6) The Department of Archives and History shall provide
51 appropriate staff support to assist the commission in carrying out
52 its duties, and the commission may consult with employees of any
53 state agency necessary to accomplish its responsibilities.

54 (7) The commission is authorized and encouraged to create
55 subcommittees and working groups whose membership includes
56 noncommission members.

57 (8) The commission shall prepare and submit its initial
58 report that contains a detailed statement of findings, conclusions
59 and recommendations of the commission to the Legislature and the
60 Governor not later than December 1, 2025. After the initial
61 report, the commission shall continue in existence and shall
62 prepare and submit a follow-up report to the Legislature and the
63 Governor annually not later than December 1 of the year.

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

