

By: Senator(s) Barnett

To: Constitution; Elections

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 511

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS
2 241 AND 253 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO RESTORE
3 VOTING RIGHTS TO PERSONS CONVICTED OF NONVIOLENT FELONIES UNDER
4 CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
10 as follows:

11 Section 241. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except
12 idiots and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States
13 of America, eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a
14 resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in
15 the county in which he or she offers to vote, and for six (6)
16 months in the election precinct or in the incorporated city or
17 town in which he or she offers to vote, and who is duly registered
18 as provided in this article, and who has never been convicted of
19 murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods



20 under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, is
21 declared to be a qualified elector, except that he or she shall be
22 qualified to vote for President and Vice President of the United
23 States if he or she meets the requirements established by Congress
24 therefor and is otherwise a qualified elector. Any person
25 convicted of a nonviolent felony under the laws of this state, or
26 any other jurisdiction recognized by this state, shall have their
27 right to vote restored, via procedures established by the
28 Legislature, upon the satisfaction of the following conditions:

29 (a) The individual has fully served all terms of their
30 sentence, including any term of incarceration, probation, parole
31 or post-release supervision;

32 (b) All court-ordered fines, fees, and restitution
33 associated with the conviction have been satisfied; and

34 (c) The individual has demonstrated good behavior by
35 remaining free from any new criminal convictions for a continuous
36 period of seven (7) years following the completion of their
37 sentence.

38 (2) For the purposes of this section, "nonviolent felony"
39 shall mean any felony that does not involve the use or threat of
40 physical force or violence against another person or result in
41 significant harm to property or individuals, as prescribed by law.

42 Amend Section 253, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
43 as follows:



44 Section 253. In any case where suffrage is not restored
45 according to Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the
46 Legislature may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both houses, of all
47 members elected, restore the right of suffrage to any person
48 disqualified by reason of crime; but the reasons therefor shall be
49 spread upon the journals, and the vote shall be by yeas and nays.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendments in this
51 resolution be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified
52 electors at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the
53 first Monday of November 2025, as provided by Section 273 of the
54 Constitution and by general law.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment
56 for the ballot shall read as follows: "The right to vote is a
57 fundamental principle of democracy. The rehabilitation and
58 reintegration of individuals who have served their sentences are
59 vital to promoting civic engagement and reducing recidivism. The
60 current language of the Mississippi Constitution prohibits all
61 citizens of Mississippi who have been convicted of a felony from
62 voting in local and state elections. By amending the
63 Constitution's language as proposed, individuals convicted of
64 nonviolent felonies would be permitted to vote upon the completion
65 of their sentence, payment of outstanding fines, and remaining
66 free from any new criminal convictions for a continuous period of
67 seven (7) years following completion of their sentences."

