

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Constitution; Judiciary,
Division A

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 513

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 26
2 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO EXPAND THE SUBJECT
3 MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE STATE GRAND JURY; TO REMOVE THE
4 REQUIREMENT THAT THE CRIMES MUST OCCUR WITHIN MORE THAN ONE
5 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT OR HAVE TRANSPIRED OR HAVE SIGNIFICANCE IN
6 MORE THAN 1 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT OF THIS STATE.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
8 MISSISSIPPI, TWO-THIRDS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 CONCURRING THEREIN, WHICH TWO-THIRDS CONSISTS OF NOT LESS THAN A
10 MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE, That the following
11 amendment to the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to
12 the qualified electors of the state:

13 Amend Section 26, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
14 as follows:

15 Section 26. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall
16 have a right to be heard by himself or herself or counsel, or
17 both, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation, to be
18 confronted by the witnesses against him or her, to have compulsory
19 process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and, in all
20 prosecutions by indictment or information, a speedy and public



21 trial by an impartial jury of the county where the offense was
22 committed; and he or she shall not be compelled to give evidence
23 against himself or herself; but in prosecutions for rape,
24 adultery, fornication, sodomy or crime against nature the court
25 may, in its discretion, exclude from the courtroom all persons
26 except such as are necessary in the conduct of the trial.
27 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, the
28 Legislature may enact laws establishing a state grand jury with
29 the authority to return indictments regardless of the county where
30 the crime was committed. The subject matter jurisdiction of a
31 state grand jury is limited to criminal violations of the
32 Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law or any other crime
33 involving narcotics, dangerous drugs or controlled substances, or
34 any crime arising out of or in connection with a violation of the
35 Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law or a crime involving
36 narcotics, dangerous drugs or controlled substances * * * or any
37 crime arising out of or in connection with an officer-involved
38 shooting or criminal violations involving public corruption,
39 including embezzlement and fraud. The venue for the trial of
40 indictments returned by a state grand jury shall be as prescribed
41 by general law.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendment in this resolution
43 shall be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified
44 electors at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the



45 first Monday of November 2025, as provided by Section 273 of the
46 Constitution and by general law.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment
48 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
49 constitutional amendment expands the subject matter jurisdiction
50 of the state grand jury to any crime arising out of or in
51 connection with an officer-involved shooting or criminal
52 violations involving embezzlement and fraud or criminal violations
53 involving public corruption. It also removes the requirement that
54 the crimes within the jurisdiction of the state grand jury must
55 have occurred in more than one (1) circuit court district of the
56 state or have transpired or had significance in more than one (1)
57 circuit court district of the state."

