

By: Senator(s) Blount

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 523

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 33,
2 MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE THAT THE LEGISLATURE
3 BY GENERAL LAW MAY PROVIDE FOR A CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROCEDURE FOR
4 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO MISSISSIPPI STATUTES.

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

9 Amend Section 33, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
10 as follows:

11 Section 33. (1) The legislative power of this state shall
12 be vested in a Legislature which shall consist of a Senate and a
13 House of Representatives, as well as with qualified electors
14 according to the process described in subsections (2) through (17)
15 herein.

16 (2) If any qualified elector of the state desires to
17 initiate a proposed amendment to the general laws of this state,
18 the qualified elector shall first file with the Secretary of State
19 a typewritten copy of the proposed initiative measure, accompanied



20 by an affidavit that the sponsor is a qualified elector of this
21 state. The initiative process shall not be used for the proposal
22 to amend or repeal any portion of the ballot initiative process or
23 to amend or repeal any law relating to the Mississippi Employees'
24 Retirement System (PERS).

25 (3) A petition submitted under subsection (2) is valid for a
26 period of twelve (12) months.

27 (4) Upon receipt of any proposed initiative measure, the
28 Secretary of State shall submit a copy of the proposed measure to
29 the Attorney General and give notice to the qualified elector who
30 filed the proposed measure upon transmittal. The Attorney General
31 may confer with the qualified elector for purposes of drafting the
32 proposal as outlined in Section 3 of Senate Bill No. , 2025
33 Regular Session.

34 (5) Upon completion of revising or altering the proposal as
35 necessary, the Attorney General shall issue a certificate of
36 review to the qualified elector for further filing with the
37 Secretary of State. After the final proposal and certificate of
38 review have been filed, the Secretary of State shall assign a
39 serial number to the initiative measure.

40 (6) After the initiative is assigned a serial number, the
41 Attorney General shall formulate a title and summary of the
42 initiative measure to accompany the measure on the ballot
43 according to the process outlined in Senate Bill No. , 2025
44 Regular Session.



45 (7) Upon completion of the title and summary, the Secretary
46 of State shall ensure publication of the title and summary in a
47 newspaper or newspapers of general circulation and on the
48 Secretary of State's website according to Section 7 of Senate Bill
49 No. , 2025 Regular Session.

50 (8) If any qualified elector is dissatisfied with the ballot
51 title or summary, the qualified elector may appeal the title and
52 summary in the process outlined in Section 8 of Senate Bill No.
53 , 2025 Regular Session.

54 (9) Upon formal establishment of the ballot title and
55 summary, the Secretary of State shall file the instrument
56 establishing both with the proposed measure and transmit a copy
57 thereof by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person
58 proposing the measure. Thereafter such ballot title shall be the
59 title of the measure in all petitions, ballots and other
60 proceedings in relation thereto. The summary shall appear on all
61 petitions directly following the ballot title.

62 (10) The qualified elector proposing the initiative shall
63 circulate a petition for signature collection according to the
64 form and process set forth in Senate Bill No. , 2025 Regular
65 Session.

66 (11) Upon collection of signatures, the Secretary of State
67 shall certify the signatures and shall state the total number of
68 qualified electors signing the petition.



69 (12) If the petition meets all requirements set forth in
70 Senate Bill No. , 2025 Regular Session, the Secretary of State
71 shall accept and file the petition. If the Secretary of State
72 refuses to file a valid petition, the qualified elector may
73 petition the Supreme Court according to Senate Bill No. , 2025
74 Regular Session.

75 (13) Each measure submitted to the people for approval or
76 rejection shall be printed on the ballot, under the proper
77 heading, so that a voter can, by making one (1) choice, express
78 his or her approval or rejection of such measure.

79 (14) No more than five (5) initiative proposals shall be
80 submitted to the voters on a single ballot, and the first five (5)
81 initiative proposals submitted to the Secretary of State with
82 sufficient petitions shall be the proposals which are submitted to
83 the voters. The Secretary of State shall retain any otherwise
84 sufficient petitions beyond five (5) and shall place them, in the
85 chronological order in which they were submitted, on the ballot
86 for the next statewide general election occurring after the
87 upcoming statewide general election.

88 (15) Except as otherwise provided in Senate Bill No. ,
89 2025 Regular Session, an initiative shall require a majority vote
90 of the people in favor of the initiative to be effective. An
91 initiative approved by the electors shall take effect thirty (30)
92 days from the date of the official declaration of the vote by the
93 Secretary of State, unless the measure provides otherwise.



94 (16) If any amendment measure proposed by initiative
95 petition under this act is rejected by the qualified electors
96 voting thereon, no initiative petition proposing the same, or
97 substantially the same, amendment shall be submitted to the
98 electors for at least two (2) years after the date of the
99 election. No initiative approved by the electors may be amended
100 by the Legislature for four (4) years after the date of the
101 election on such amendment without a three-fourths (3/4) vote of
102 both houses of the Legislature.

103 (17) A pamphlet containing a copy of all initiative
104 measures, including the ballot title and ballot summary, arguments
105 or explanations for and against each measure and alternative, and
106 the fiscal analysis prepared by the Chief Legislative Budget
107 Officer shall be compiled by the Secretary of State according to
108 Section 19 of Senate Bill No. , 2025 Regular Session.
109 Additionally, the Secretary of State shall conduct at least one
110 (1) public hearing in each Supreme Court district on each measure
111 to be placed on the ballot.

112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be
113 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at
114 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
115 of November 2023, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution
116 and by general law.

117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
118 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed



119 amendment authorizes qualified electors of the state to enact
120 legislation by ballot initiative, via a process outline in this
121 language and in statutes adopted by the Legislature."

