

By: Ford

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING PERMANENT RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
4 OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following Rules of the House of  
5 Representatives are hereby adopted as the permanent Rules of the  
6 House:

7 HOUSE RULES

8 THE SPEAKER AND SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

9 1. The Speaker, when elected, shall hold office for a term  
10 of four (4) years, or until the next regular session of the  
11 Legislature following an election for Governor and members of the  
12 Legislature, and shall take the chair on every legislative day  
13 precisely at the hour to which the House shall have adjourned at  
14 the last sitting, immediately call the members to order, cause the  
15 roll to be called finally, (late members may file explanations as  
16 late but present) and, on the appearance of a quorum, cause the  
17 Journal of the proceedings of the last day's sitting to be read,  
18 having previously examined and approved the same.

19 2. He shall preserve order and decorum, and, in case of  
20 disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or in the  
21 lobby, may cause the same to be cleared, may speak to points of

22 order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for  
23 that purpose.

24 3. He shall have general control, except as provided by rule  
25 or law, of the Hall of the House, and of the corridors and  
26 passages and the disposal of the unappropriated rooms in that part  
27 of the Capitol assigned to the use of the House, until further  
28 order.

29 4. He shall sign all acts, addresses, joint resolutions,  
30 writs, warrants and subpoenas of, or issued by order of, the  
31 House, and decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by  
32 any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once  
33 unless by permission of the House. The Speaker may require points  
34 of order in writing and may take reasonable time to examine and  
35 study same before ruling thereon, during which period  
36 consideration of that particular subject matter may be suspended  
37 without prejudice and the House proceed to the next order of  
38 business.

39 5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it  
40 sitting; and shall put questions in this form, to wit: "As many  
41 as are in favor (as the question may be), say 'Aye'"; and after  
42 the affirmative voice is expressed, "As many as are opposed, say  
43 'No'"; if he doubts, or a division is called for, the House shall  
44 divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise  
45 from their seats, and then those in the negative; if he still  
46 doubts, or a count is required by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the  
47 quorum, he shall name one (1) from each side of the question to  
48 tell the members in the affirmative and negative, which being  
49 reported, he shall rise and state the decision.

50 6. He shall not be required to vote in ordinary legislative  
51 proceedings, except where his vote would be decisive, or where the  
52 House is engaged in voting by ballot; and in cases of a tie vote

for, question shall be decided in the negative.

7. He shall have the right to name any member to perform the duties of the chair when the Speaker Pro Tempore shall be unable to do so, but such substitution shall not extend beyond one (1) legislative day; provided, however, that in the case of illness or unavoidable absence of both the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore, he may make such appointment for a period not exceeding five (5) days, with the approval of the House at the time the same is made.

8. Upon the death of a member of the House, the Speaker or any member of the House designated by him shall incur such expenses as may be necessary for the purchase on behalf of the House a State Flag for use in connection with the funeral and burial of said member, which flag shall be presented to the family of said member.

9. No member or visitor shall visit in the Speaker's stand during the session of the House, except at the instance of the Speaker. The Speaker may call a member to preside when necessary or desirable to confer with a member or visitor.

10. All committees, except the Rules Committee and the Management Committee, shall be appointed by the Speaker unless otherwise specially directed by the House.

10A. (1) There is hereby created in the House of Representatives the office of Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of Representatives (hereinafter Speaker Pro Tempore).

(2) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected on the same day and in the same manner and method as may be designated

81 for the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

82           (3) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve a term of four  
83 (4) years, which term as Speaker Pro Tempore shall expire  
84 concurrently with the term being served by the Speaker Pro Tempore  
85 as a member of the House of Representatives.

86           (4) Any vacancy in the office of Speaker Pro Tempore  
87 occurring during a regular or special legislative session shall be  
88 filled by election of the House of Representatives within five (5)  
89 calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring  
90 during an interim between legislative sessions shall be filled  
91 within the first five (5) calendar days of the next succeeding  
92 regular or special session. The person so elected shall serve  
93 only the remainder of the unexpired term.

94           (5) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall have the following  
95 powers, duties and responsibilities:

96           (a) To serve as Speaker of the House of  
97 Representatives during the absence, illness or disability of the  
98 Speaker, thereby assuming all powers, duties, responsibilities and  
99 privileges conferred upon the Speaker by the Constitution,  
100 statute, law or rule;

101           (b) To become Speaker of the House of  
102 Representatives in the event of the death of the Speaker, thereby  
103 assuming all powers, duties, responsibilities and privileges  
104 conferred upon the Speaker by the Constitution, statute, law or  
105 rule. However, if the Speaker Pro Tempore becomes the Speaker of  
106 the House, a new Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected;

107           (c) To preside over the House of Representatives  
108 when the Speaker is not presiding and to preside over the House

109 when sitting as the Committee of the Whole unless the Speaker Pro  
110 Tempore moved that the House go into the Committee of the Whole;

111 (d) To serve as the Chairman of the House  
112 Management Committee, having full powers of discussion,  
113 participation and voting;

114 (e) To serve as an ex officio member of the Rules  
115 Committee, having full powers of discussion, participation and  
116 voting;

117 (f) To consult with the Speaker in resolving  
118 points of order or other parliamentary matters; and

119 (g) Such other powers, duties and responsibilities  
120 as may be conferred upon the Speaker Pro Tempore by law or  
121 legislative rule.

122 RULES COMMITTEE

123 11. From and after December 31, 1987, the Rules Committee  
124 shall be composed of the Speaker, who shall be ex officio a voting  
125 member thereof, the Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall be ex officio a  
126 voting member thereof, one (1) member from the state at large  
127 appointed by the Speaker, and ten (10) other members, two (2) from  
128 each congressional district as constituted on January 1, 1996, to  
129 be selected by the members from their respective congressional  
130 districts by caucus. The place of residence of a member  
131 representing such district shall determine the congressional  
132 district caucus in which he shall participate and for which he may  
133 hold membership on the Rules Committee. The Speaker shall appoint  
134 the chairman and the vice chairman from among the members of the  
135 Rules Committee, but neither the Speaker nor the Speaker Pro  
136 Tempore shall be eligible to serve as chairman or vice chairman of

the Rules Committee.

Any vacancy of a congressional district position occurring during a regular annual legislative session shall be filled by election of the appropriate caucus within ten (10) calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any such vacancy occurring between regular annual sessions shall be filled by caucus election during the first five (5) calendar days of the next succeeding regular or special session of the Legislature.

No member of the Rules Committee shall concurrently serve as a member of the House Management Committee, except that the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve on the Management Committee as provided in Rule 11A.

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11A. (1) There is hereby created the House of Representatives Management Committee (hereinafter Management Committee) to be composed of the Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall serve as ex officio chairman, having full powers of discussion and voting, the Speaker, who shall be ex officio a voting member thereof, and ten (10) other representatives, two (2) from each congressional district of Mississippi as constituted on January 1, 1996, to be elected by caucus of the representatives from each such district. The place of residence of a representative shall determine the congressional district caucus in which the representative shall participate and from which the representative may hold membership on the Management Committee. The members of the Management Committee shall select, from among its members, a vice chairman and secretary.

The members of the Management Committee elected in the year

1987 shall be elected within ten (10) calendar days following the adoption of this rule. The members of the Management Committee thereafter shall be elected during the first calendar week of each regular session having one hundred twenty-five (125) calendar days. Members shall serve a term of four (4) years, and each member's term shall end on the date on which the member's term in the House of Representatives expires.

(2) No member of the Management Committee shall serve concurrently as a member of the House Rules Committee, except that the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve on the Rules Committee as provided in Rule 11.

(3) Any vacancy of a congressional district position occurring during a regular annual legislative session shall be filled by election by the appropriate caucus within ten (10) calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring between regular annual legislative sessions shall be filled by election by the appropriate caucus during the first five (5) calendar days of the next succeeding regular or special session of the Legislature.

(4) The Management Committee shall meet at such times as are necessary for the proper exercise of its functions, and shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with these rules, as it deems necessary for the efficient operation of the committee.

(5) Action by a majority vote of the Management Committee shall control and be conclusive on any matter properly concerning the House of Representatives.

(6) The committee shall function on a year-round basis

and when the Legislature is not in session, members of the committee shall be compensated as provided in Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, for each day spent in actual discharge of their duties and shall be reimbursed for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. No committee member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless authorized by vote at a meeting of the committee, which action shall be recorded in the official minutes of the committee.

(7) The Management Committee shall, in addition to its other responsibilities, perform the following duties:

(a) Conduct the business affairs of the House of Representatives;

(b) Investigate the feasibility of new and additional staff agencies and make recommendations to the House of Representatives;

(c) Assign such space in the Capitol or in such other buildings or parts thereof as may be reserved for the House of Representatives and have complete control, authority and jurisdiction over such rooms, chambers, offices and other areas.

Any assignment of space shall be subject to change by the Management Committee. No other branch of the government, or a department or agency thereof, shall use any room, chamber, office or other area without specific written authorization from the Management Committee. The Management Committee is hereby authorized to delegate its powers with regard to any such room, chamber, office or other area in connection with the maintenance, repairing, construction, reconstruction and refurbishing thereof in such a manner as it deems advisable;



(d) Staff interim committees;

(e) Staff standing committees; and

(f) Continually assess ways and means to improve the organization, procedures, facilities and working conditions of the House of Representatives.

(8) The Management Committee shall have the authority to designate a director, who may also serve as Director of the House Legislative Services Office, and who shall carry out the directives of the Management Committee and shall perform any and all duties of the Management Committee delegated to him. The Management Committee may employ other personnel as may be necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities. All such personnel shall serve at the pleasure of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall also have the authority to fix the salaries of all personnel employed by the House of Representatives.

All employees of the House of Representatives required to travel in the performance of official duties shall be reimbursed for actual subsistence and travel expenses incurred by them while on official business as provided by law, provided such travel has prior approval of the Management Committee or the director under such authority as may be granted to him by the Management Committee.

(9) In providing for the staffing of the Speaker's staff and of committees, the Management Committee shall have the responsibility for determining the necessity of any staff positions requested by the Speaker or the chairman of any committee, as the case may be. The persons to be employed for

249 such positions approved by the Management Committee shall be hired  
250 with approval of the Speaker or the chairman of the committee  
251 concerned, as the case may be. The Speaker or the committee  
252 chairman, as the case may be, shall recommend the compensation to  
253 be paid to the Speaker's staff or committee staff members, as the  
254 case may be, and the Management Committee shall consider these  
255 recommendations when fixing such salaries.

256 (10) The Management Committee, upon request of the  
257 chairman of any standing committee of the House of  
258 Representatives, may authorize expenses, to include per diem,  
259 mileage, meals and lodging, to be paid for members attending the  
260 meeting of any standing committee or subcommittees thereof during  
261 the period in which the Legislature is not in session, which shall  
262 not exceed the compensation provided for members of the Management  
263 Committee provided for in subsection (6) of this rule. The  
264 Management Committee shall adopt rules and regulations concerning  
265 time, places and number of meetings that may be held for which  
266 members will be compensated, such rules and regulations to require  
267 prior approval of meetings in order for members to be compensated.

268 (11) The Management Committee shall have general  
269 administrative powers and the responsibility for the proper  
270 operation of the House Legislative Services Office.

271 (a) The director, subject to approval of the  
272 Management Committee, shall employ full-time professional,  
273 technical, clerical and stenographic assistance as may be  
274 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

275 (b) The House Legislative Services Office shall  
276 cooperate with the State Librarian in maintaining a reference

277 library which shall contain, but shall not be limited to, study  
278 reports and information gathered by the departments and the  
279 various committees of the Legislature so as to provide a  
280 continuity of information from year to year.

281 (c) The House Legislative Services Office shall  
282 assist the House of Representatives, its committees, commissions  
283 and individual members of the House of Representatives as follows  
284 in:

285 (i) Bill research;

286 (ii) Bill drafting;

287 (iii) Bill analysis;

288 (iv) Preparation and writing of standing and  
289 interim committee reports; and

290 (v) Such other duties as prescribed by the  
291 Management Committee.

292 (d) The House Legislative Services Office must be  
293 authorized, in writing, by a House member to prepare a draft  
294 before it undertakes the preparation thereof.

295 (e) No employee of the House Legislative Services  
296 Office shall:

297 (i) Reveal to any person outside his office  
298 the contents or nature of any request for services made by any  
299 member of the House except with the written consent of the person  
300 making such request;

301 (ii) Urge, oppose or attempt to influence any  
302 legislation;

303 (iii) Give legal advice on any subject to any  
304 person, firm or corporation, except members of the House; nor

(iv) During his employment be associated or interested in the private practice of law in any matter without prior approval of the Management Committee.

A violation of any provision of this section by an employee shall be sufficient cause for his or her immediate dismissal. However, this paragraph shall not be a limitation on the authority of the Management Committee to dismiss or change its employees.

(12) The Office of General Services shall cooperate with the Management Committee in making space available either in the Capitol or in any other buildings easily accessible to members of the Legislature.

(13) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this rule shall be paid from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives Contingent Fund made by the Legislature for the purposes herein set out.

(14) At such time as there may be created in the Senate of the State of Mississippi a corresponding management committee with like duties and responsibilities of the House Management Committee, the House Management Committee is authorized to meet jointly with such corresponding Senate Management Committee in order to more effectively carry out the provisions of this rule.

#### DUTIES OF THE CLERK

12. When a bill has passed, it shall be certified by the Clerk, who shall note thereon the day it passes.

13. He shall stand while reading papers to the House, he shall attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the House.

14. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall keep a

333 correct Journal of the proceedings of the House, and, on each day,  
334 shall read over the Journal of the preceding day to the House. He  
335 shall number, file and preserve in its proper order, each bill,  
336 resolution, memorial, or other paper introduced in the House, and  
337 carefully engross and enroll all bills, resolutions, memorials and  
338 other papers that may be ordered to be engrossed or enrolled; and  
339 shall promptly and faithfully discharge all the duties incident to  
340 the House, provide for control of employees of the House under  
341 Speaker, provide for pay of members, employees, and control pages  
342 and porters. (Statutory)

343       15. Pages shall be appointed to serve for one (1) week at a  
344 time each, under the control and direction of the Clerk of the  
345 House, provided, however, that only persons over the age of twelve  
346 (12) years shall be eligible to serve as pages.

347       16. The Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives  
348 shall give a general supervision, under the direction of the  
349 Speaker of the House, attend the sittings thereof, preserve order,  
350 execute its commands and all processes issued by its authority;  
351 and shall have control of the doorkeepers and servants of the  
352 House, not including stenographers, pages, etc. He shall clear  
353 the House of all visitors one (1) hour before each session  
354 convenes and not allow visitors on the Floor of the House for ten  
355 (10) minutes after a session has recessed or adjourned. He shall  
356 see that the Hall of the House and the Committee Rooms and the  
357 Room of the Speaker of the House, the anterooms, lobbies and  
358 galleries thereof are clean, comfortable, heated in winter if  
359 necessary to comfort, and lighted at night during the sitting of  
360 the House, and that all necessary conveniences are supplied to the

361 members, officers and committees. He shall, on the final  
362 adjournment of the Legislature, collect all the remaining  
363 stationery and furnishings purchased for the use of the House and  
364 deliver the same to the Secretary of State. (Statutory)

365 DUTIES OF THE DOORKEEPERS

366 17. The Doorkeepers of the House of Representatives shall  
367 keep the doors thereof under their direction, and perform such  
368 other duties as may be required of them.

369 DECORUM AND DEBATE

370 18. When any member desires to speak, to make a motion, or  
371 deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise at his desk and  
372 respectfully address himself to "Mr. Speaker" and, on being  
373 recognized, may address the House from any place on the floor and  
374 shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid  
375 personalities.

376 18A. Whenever a member is on the floor of the House while  
377 the House is in session, each male member of the House shall wear  
378 a coat and necktie, except when seated, and each female member of  
379 the House shall wear appropriate attire. No visitor or guest on  
380 the House floor shall be required to comply with this rule.

381 19. No member shall call by name another member present in  
382 debate.

383 20. If any member, in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses  
384 the Rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any member may on  
385 point of order ask the Speaker to call the transgressor to order;  
386 and the member called to order shall immediately sit down, unless  
387 permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the House if  
388 appealed to, shall decide on the case without debate. If the

389 decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at  
390 liberty to proceed; if against him and the case requires it, he  
391 shall be liable to the censure of the House, or such other  
392 punishment as the House may deem proper.

393       21. If a member is called to order for words spoken in  
394 debate, the member calling him to order shall indicate the words  
395 excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the  
396 Clerk's desk and read aloud to the House; but he shall not be held  
397 to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the House therefor, if  
398 further debate on other business has intervened.

399       22. When two (2) or more members rise at once the Speaker  
400 shall name the member who is first to speak.

401       23. No member shall speak more than ten (10) minutes on any  
402 main question, or five (5) minutes on an amendment, without leave  
403 of the House, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of  
404 the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak  
405 in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have  
406 spoken. A member who has spoken once, but who has not consumed  
407 his whole time shall not be permitted to speak again on the same  
408 question until each member that desires to do so shall have  
409 spoken.

410       24. After the motion to lay on the table, those in  
411 opposition to the motion shall be allowed five (5) minutes for  
412 discussion.

413       25. While the Speaker is putting a question, or addressing  
414 the House, no member shall walk out of, or across or about the  
415 Hall or converse with another, nor when a member is speaking, pass  
416 between him and the Chair, or entertain private discourse. And

417 during the session of the House, no member or other person shall  
418 remain at the Clerk's desk at any time. No member or others shall  
419 expectorate upon the floor of the House, and the Sergeant at Arms  
420 and doorkeepers are charged with the strict enforcement of this  
421 rule.

422         26. No member shall vote on any question in the result of  
423 which he is pecuniarily interested, nor in any other case where he  
424 was not present when the question was put.

425         27. Every member who shall be in the House when a question  
426 is put shall vote on one (1) side or the other unless the House  
427 shall, for special reasons, excuse him.

428         28. No member shall absent himself from the service of the  
429 House, unless he shall have leave, or be sick, or unable to  
430 attend. Fifteen (15) members shall be authorized to compel the  
431 attendance of absent members and order a call of the House.

432                     ON MOTIONS, THEIR PRECEDENCE, ETC.

433         29. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order except when  
434 operating under the previous question, but a motion to adjourn  
435 being lost, shall not be renewed until some business has  
436 intervened.

437         30. Every motion made to the House and entertained by the  
438 Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any member,  
439 and may be entered on the Journal with the name of the member  
440 making the motion.

441         31. When a motion has been made, the Speaker shall state it  
442 or (if it be in writing) cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk  
443 before being debated, and it shall then be in possession of the  
444 House, but may be withdrawn by unanimous consent at any time



445 before a decision or amendment.

446 32. No dilatory motion shall be entertained by the Speaker.

447 33. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be  
448 received but:

449 (1) To adjourn

450 (2) To lay on the table

451 (3) For the previous question

452 (4) To lay on the table subject to call

453 (5) To postpone to a day certain

454 (6) To refer

455 (7) To amend

456 (8) To postpone indefinitely

457 which several motions shall have precedence in the foregoing  
458 order; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or  
459 to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall be again allowed on  
460 the same day at the same stage of the question.

461 34. A motion to postpone a question beyond the time at which  
462 it can be considered is equivalent to complete disapproval and  
463 should be treated as a motion to postpone indefinitely.

464 The motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable and opens  
465 the main question to debate.

466 A majority vote of the members voting is required for the  
467 adoption of the motion to postpone indefinitely. The adoption of  
468 a motion to postpone indefinitely shall be treated as a vote on  
469 the final passage of a measure and shall be subject to  
470 reconsideration as such.

471 35. No motion or proposition on a subject different from  
472 that under consideration shall be admitted under color of an

473 amendment; nor shall any amendment be adopted changing the  
474 original purpose of the bill.

475         36. The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not  
476 preclude further amendments to that section. If a measure is  
477 being considered section by section or item by item, only  
478 amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be  
479 made. The Speaker shall, in recognizing members for the purpose  
480 of moving the adoption of amendments, endeavor to cause all  
481 amendments to Section 1 to be considered first, then all those to  
482 Section 2 and so on. After all sections have been considered  
483 separately, the whole measure shall be open for amendment.

484         An amendment to strike all after the enacting or resolving  
485 clause or to strike out the enacting or resolving clause of a  
486 measure shall, if carried, be considered as equivalent to  
487 rejection of the measure by the House, and the vote thereon shall  
488 be taken by a roll-call vote. Amendments to an amendment shall be  
489 voted on before substitute is taken up. Only one (1) amendment to  
490 the amendment is in order at one (1) time; but as rapidly as one  
491 is disposed of by rejection or adoption, another is in order as  
492 long as any member desires to offer one. A substitute amendment  
493 may be offered to an amendment. An amendment to the substitute  
494 may be offered. No other amendment can be offered since the third  
495 degree has been reached. The vote shall be taken in the following  
496 order: the amendment to the amendment shall first be voted on;  
497 then the amendment to the substitute; then the substitute  
498 amendment and if the substitute is adopted, then the original  
499 amendment shall be regarded as automatically tabled.

500         An amendment to a pending question requires only a majority

501 vote for its adoption, even though the question may require a vote  
502 greater than a majority, for adoption.

503 It is in order for a House bill with Senate amendments to be  
504 referred to the proper committee or committees.

505 On all questions, whether in committee or in the House, the  
506 last amendment, the most distant day or hour and the largest sum  
507 shall be put first.

508 SUSPENSION OF RULES

509 37. No rule shall be suspended except by the concurrence of  
510 two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

511 38. All motions to suspend the rules shall embrace fully the  
512 object for which they are to be suspended.

513 39. A motion to suspend the rules shall be deemed a  
514 privileged motion, and shall take precedence of all other motions  
515 except the motion to adjourn, but it shall not be in order to make  
516 a motion to suspend the rules while the House is engaged in the  
517 consideration of other business.

518 40. On a motion to suspend the rules for reading a bill a  
519 third time, no debate shall be allowed unless the motion prevails.

520 41. An affirmative vote on a motion to suspend the rules for  
521 the purpose of taking up any particular bill, or resolution, shall  
522 not have the effect of precluding any motion or amendment in  
523 relation thereto which would have been in order if the bill or  
524 resolution had been brought before the House in the regular order.

525 42. A motion to suspend the rules for a particular purpose  
526 having been decided in the negative, it shall not be in order to  
527 renew the motion for the same purpose during the same day.

528 MOTION TO REFER

529           43. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
530 other papers addressed to the House may be referred upon original  
531 reference at the pleasure of the House by suspension of the rules;  
532 provided, however, any bill, resolution, petition, memorial,  
533 report, or other paper being before the House after the original  
534 reference thereof may be referred to a standing or select  
535 committee by a majority vote of the members of the House present  
536 and voting.

537           44. The vote on a motion to refer to committee may not be  
538 reconsidered. A motion to recommit or commit to committee shall  
539 be considered a motion to refer.

540           45. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
541 other papers addressed to the House may be presented by any member  
542 who shall state briefly to the House the contents thereof; and no  
543 such bill, resolution, petition, memorial, report or other paper  
544 addressed to the House shall be read in full to the House but  
545 shall be filed with the Clerk, attention called thereto, and  
546 referred to the proper committee, unless by a majority vote of  
547 those present in the House should desire the same read.

548           46. Any member upon recognition by the Speaker may object to  
549 the reading of any document before the House. After such  
550 objection, the question of reading shall be determined without  
551 debate by a majority vote of the members present, upon a brief  
552 statement of its substance by the Speaker.

553           47. When a bill, resolution, petition, memorial, report and  
554 other paper addressed to the House is offered, a motion made to  
555 refer any subject, and different committees are proposed, the  
556 question shall be taken in the following order:

557           A standing committee

558           A select committee

559           Committee of the Whole

560           When more than one (1) standing committee is proposed, the  
561 last proposed shall be the first voted upon as an amendment to  
562 strike out and insert.

563           48. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
564 other papers addressed to the House shall, upon introduction, be  
565 referred by the Speaker to the committee having jurisdiction over  
566 the subject matter, and shall be considered by the House only  
567 after having been reported by such committee.

568           Provided, however, it shall be in order to consider a bill,  
569 resolution, petition, memorial, report, and other papers under the  
570 suspension of rules.

571           49. When a bill or concurrent resolution is originally  
572 referred to two (2) or more committees and favorably reported by  
573 them, the chairman of the first-named committee shall have the  
574 option of handling the bill or resolution on the floor.

575           Local and private bills may, in the discretion of the  
576 Speaker, be referred to two (2) or more committees, if, in the  
577 discretion of the Speaker, the nature and effect of said local and  
578 private bill shall require the consideration of another committee.

579           General bills written in such a way as to be local and  
580 private in nature shall be referred by the Speaker to the  
581 Committee on Local and Private Legislation and/or such other  
582 committee as permitted by the rules.

583                               READING OF BILLS

584           50. After a bill has been read for the first time, if there

585 is no objection, the rules shall be considered suspended and the  
586 bill placed on its second reading.

587       51. After a bill has been read the second time it shall be  
588 subject to amendment, but no discussion shall be allowed, or  
589 amendment adopted, until the bill shall have been referred to a  
590 committee with the proposed amendments thereto.

591       52. When a bill is up for final passage, and two (2) or more  
592 major amendments have been adopted, a motion to recommit shall be  
593 in order and have precedence over all other business.

594       53. Special order after the reading of the Journal of the  
595 preceding day shall be:

596           (1) Senate messages.

597           (2) Senate bills on the first and second reading and  
598 for the proper reference to the committees.

599           (3) House bills on second reading.

600                               REGULAR ORDER

601       54. The regular order shall be:

602           (1) Report of select committees.

603           (2) Report of standing committees in their order.

604           (3) Introduction of bills and constitutional  
605 amendments.

606           (4) Resolutions, petitions, memorials and other papers.

607           (5) Introduction of guests and visitors.

608           (6) Disposition of pending business on previous day,  
609 provided that nothing shall be considered under this section  
610 except propositions actually pending before the House at the time  
611 of adjournment on said previous day.

612           (7) Consideration of conference reports.

613           When a conference report is called up, only three (3) courses  
614 are open: (a) agree, (b) disagree, or (c) recommit to the same or  
615 another conference committee with or without instructions.

616   Provided, however, only two (2) motions for the three (3) courses  
617 are in order: (a) agree, or (b) recommit to the same or another  
618 conference committee with or without instructions. If both  
619 motions are offered, the motion to recommit shall take precedence.

620           A conference report must be acted on as a whole and dealt  
621 with in its entirety.

622           A conference report may not be amended except by a concurrent  
623 resolution.

624           When conference results in disagreement, conferees reporting  
625 such disagreement in writing are thereby discharged and new  
626 conferees may be appointed.

627           (8) Consideration of bills for concurrence.

628           When Senate amendments to a House bill are before the body,  
629 they shall be either concurred in or not concurred in their  
630 entirety and not separately. The motion that the House do not  
631 concur in Senate amendments but invite conference shall take  
632 precedence over the motion that the House do concur. The  
633 concurrence in amendments adopted by the other house shall require  
634 for adoption the same vote as was required for the original  
635 passage of the measure and shall be on roll call duly entered and  
636 recorded in the Journal of the House.

637           (9) Consideration of motions to reconsider.

638           (10) Consideration and passage of bills and resolutions  
639 on the general calendar.

640           (11) The Rules Committee may report at any time.

641 ORDER OF BUSINESS

642 55. The order of business shall not be changed except by  
643 two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, and all  
644 questions relating to the priority shall be decided without  
645 debate.

646 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

647 56. In all cases in forming a Committee of the Whole, which  
648 shall be done by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present  
649 and voting, the Speaker shall leave his chair and the Speaker Pro  
650 Tempore shall preside. If the Speaker Pro Tempore is absent or if  
651 the Speaker Pro Tempore moved to go into the Committee of the  
652 Whole, the Speaker shall appoint a chairman to preside, who shall,  
653 in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the gallery or  
654 lobby, have the power to cause the same to be cleared, but the  
655 member making the motion to go into Committee of the Whole shall  
656 not be called to the chair.

657 57. Upon a bill being referred to the Committee of the  
658 Whole, the same shall first be read through by the Clerk, unless  
659 the committee shall otherwise order, and then read and debated by  
660 sections, leaving the title to be last considered. After report,  
661 the bill shall again be subject to debate and amendment before the  
662 question of engrossing it be taken.

663 58. The only motions permitted in Committee of the Whole  
664 are: to limit debate; to propose amendments; to recommend; to  
665 recess committee subject to the call of the chairman; to  
666 reconsider, provided said motion to reconsider may be called up  
667 immediately or at any time during the time the House is resolved  
668 into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the



669 matter before the committee; and to rise.

670         59. The rules of the procedure in the House shall be  
671 observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they may be  
672 applicable and in all committees, provided standing and select  
673 committees may exclude from their committee procedures those House  
674 Rules not compatible, in the opinion of said committee, with the  
675 proper function of said committee.

676                                 STANDING COMMITTEES

677         60. (1) The following shall be the standing committees of  
678 the House:

679                         (a) Rules Committee, as provided for in Rule 11 of  
680 these rules;

681                         (b) Management Committee, as provided for in Rule  
682 11A of these rules;

683                         (c) Ethics Committee, as provided for in Rule 63A  
684 of these rules;

685	(d) Committee	Number of Members
686	Agriculture	33
687	Apportionment and Elections	17
688	Appropriations	33
689	Banks and Banking	11
690	Conservation and Water Resources	29
691	Constitution	15
692	County Affairs	19
693	Education	31
694	Fees and Salaries of Public Officers	15
695	Game and Fish	15
696	Insurance	17

697	Interstate Cooperation	7
698	Judiciary	50
699	Juvenile Justice	25
700	Labor	11
701	Local and Private Legislation	7
702	Military Affairs	11
703	Municipalities	17
704	Oil, Gas and Other Minerals	17
705	Penitentiary	17
706	Public Buildings, Grounds and Lands	19
707	Public Health and Welfare	28
708	Public Utilities	17
709	Transportation	29
710	Universities and Colleges	11
711	Ways and Means	33
712	(2) No member shall serve on both the Committee on Ways	
713	and Means and the Committee on Appropriations. Each member may	
714	serve on at least four (4) committees listed in this rule.	
715	(3) The Committee on Appropriations and the Committee	
716	on Ways and Means each shall consist of thirty-three (33) members	
717	appointed by the Speaker, six (6) members from each congressional	
718	district as constituted on January 1, 1996, and three (3) members	
719	from the state at large. Appointments from the congressional	
720	districts shall be made on the basis of seniority. For the	
721	purposes of this rule, "seniority" shall mean length of service,	
722	continuous or interrupted, in either the House of Representatives	
723	or the Senate. However, seniority among members having the same	
724	length of service shall be determined as follows: first,	

725 continuous, uninterrupted service in the House; second,  
726 continuous, uninterrupted service in the House and Senate; third,  
727 interrupted service in the House; and fourth, interrupted service  
728 in the House and Senate.

729           (4) In order for a member to be eligible for the rights  
730 accorded by this subsection (4), a member shall submit a list of  
731 his or her committee preferences, setting forth at least ten (10)  
732 committees in order of preference with the most preferred being  
733 first on the list, to the Clerk of the House by 5:00 p.m. on the  
734 third calendar day of the first legislative session immediately  
735 following the year in which the members of the Legislature are  
736 elected. With regard to committee appointments, the following  
737 shall be followed by the Speaker of the House in making such  
738 appointments:

739           (a) Each member of the House who has served in the  
740 House for less than four (4) years, whether such service be  
741 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member  
742 of the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on Ways and  
743 Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at  
744 least two (2) of the first seven (7) committees on such list, not  
745 to include Appropriations and Ways and Means; and

746           (b) Each member of the House who has served in the  
747 House for four (4) years or more, whether such service be  
748 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member  
749 of the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on Ways and  
750 Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at  
751 least three (3) of the first seven (7) committees on such list.

752           (5) In making committee appointments, the Speaker shall

753 give consideration to the preferences as expressed by the members  
754 on their lists as provided in subsection (4) of this rule, and to  
755 the seniority, abilities, and geographic location of the members.

756         61. The first member named on a committee shall be its  
757 chairman and the second member named shall be its vice chairman.  
758 However, from and after December 31, 1987, no member who serves as  
759 chairman or vice chairman of a standing committee shall serve as  
760 chairman or vice chairman of another standing committee. There  
761 shall be no further rank on committees, the remaining members  
762 being listed thereon in alphabetical order. Each committee shall,  
763 after its organization, immediately determine by a majority vote  
764 what shall constitute a sufficient quorum for it to proceed to  
765 business, which quorum shall be not less than a majority of the  
766 committee, and shall report said action to the Clerk of the House.

767         62. The Judiciary Committee shall be divided into two (2)  
768 divisions to be known as "Division A" and "Division B." The  
769 members of each division shall be selected by the Speaker of the  
770 House and bills, resolutions and other measures, at the discretion  
771 of the Speaker, may be referred to Judiciary en banc, in which  
772 event the two (2) divisions shall sit as one (1) committee and be  
773 presided over by the Chairman of Division A.

774         63. The chairman of each House committee shall keep a record  
775 of meetings and attendance and shall make with his report each  
776 time a statement showing the hour his committee met and the hour  
777 it adjourned, together with the names of all the members of the  
778 committee who were absent from the meeting, who had not been  
779 previously excused by him or by the Speaker to attend to other  
780 legislative duties.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

63A. As used in the context of this rule, the word "committee" shall mean the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, and the phrase "majority of the committee" shall mean a majority of the members to which the committee is entitled.

The committee shall consist of eight (8) members, one (1) from each congressional district as constituted on January 1, 1996, and one (1) from each Supreme Court district, appointed by the Speaker. The Speaker shall appoint from the members a chairman, vice chairman and secretary for the committee.

The chairman shall notify all members of the committee at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the date, time and place of a meeting. Whenever the chairman shall refuse to call a meeting, a majority of the committee may vote to call a meeting by giving two (2) days' written notice to the Speaker of the House setting forth the time and place for such meeting. Such notice shall be posted in the office of the Clerk of the House, and if such meeting is called while the Legislature is in session the notice shall be read to the House. Thereafter, the meeting shall be held at the time and place specified in such notice.

The committee shall conduct its investigations, hearings and meetings relating to a specific investigation or a specific member, officer or employee of the House in closed session, and the fact that such investigation is being conducted or to be conducted, or that hearings or such meetings are being held or are to be held shall be confidential information, unless the person subject to investigation advises the committee in writing that he elects that such hearing shall be held publicly. In the event of

809 such an election, the committee shall furnish such person a public  
810 hearing. All other meetings of the committee shall be open to the  
811 public.

812       The committee shall receive complaints from any citizen  
813 against members, officers and employees of the House alleging  
814 improper or unethical conduct. Any such complaint must be in  
815 writing signed by the person filing the complaint and acknowledged  
816 by a notary public, and must set forth in detail the conduct in  
817 question and the section of the Code of Ethics, other House Rule,  
818 written policy of the House adopted by the Management Committee,  
819 statute, or of the Constitution violated. The person against whom  
820 the complaint has been brought shall be notified in writing and  
821 given a copy of the complaint. Within fifteen (15) days after  
822 receipt of the complaint, such person may file a written answer  
823 thereto with the committee. Upon receipt of the answer, by vote  
824 of a majority of the committee, the committee shall either dismiss  
825 the complaint within ten (10) days or proceed with a formal  
826 investigation, to include hearings, not less than ten (10) days  
827 nor more than thirty (30) days after notice in writing to the  
828 person so charged that the committee is proceeding with a formal  
829 investigation. Personal service of such notice shall be made by  
830 the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and a return  
831 made thereon to the committee. Failure of the person charged to  
832 file an answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or create an  
833 inference or presumption that the complaint is true, and such  
834 failure to file an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the  
835 committee from either proceeding with a formal investigation or  
836 dismissing the complaint.

837           A majority of the committee may, on its own, initiate a  
838 preliminary investigation of any suspected violation of the Code  
839 of Ethics, other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted  
840 by the Management Committee, statute, or Constitution by a member,  
841 officer or employee of the House. If it is determined by a  
842 majority of the committee that a violation of a rule or law may  
843 have occurred, the person in question shall be notified in writing  
844 of the conduct in question and the section of the Code of Ethics,  
845 other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted by the  
846 Management Committee, statute or Constitution violated. Within  
847 fifteen (15) days, such person may file a written answer thereto.  
848 Upon receipt of the answer, by vote of a majority of the  
849 committee, the committee shall either dismiss the charges within  
850 ten (10) days or proceed with a formal investigation, to include  
851 hearings, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30)  
852 days after notice in writing to the person so charged that the  
853 committee is proceeding with a formal investigation. Personal  
854 service of such notice shall be made by the Sergeant at Arms of  
855 the House of Representatives and a return made thereon to the  
856 committee. Failure of the person charged to file an answer shall  
857 not be deemed to be an admission or create an inference or  
858 presumption that the charge is true, and such failure to file an  
859 answer shall not prohibit a majority of the committee from either  
860 proceeding with a formal investigation or dismissing the charge.

861           In the event that the committee desires to review the  
862 statement of economic interest or any other statement filed with  
863 the Mississippi Ethics Commission by any member, officer or  
864 employee of the House, the commission shall furnish a certified

865 copy of the statement to the committee.

866 In the event that the committee shall elect to proceed with a  
867 formal investigation of the conduct of any member, officer or  
868 employee of the House, the committee may, in its discretion,  
869 employ independent counsel who shall not be employed by the House  
870 for any other purpose or in any other capacity during such  
871 investigation.

872 Such person shall be entitled to present evidence,  
873 cross-examine witnesses, face his accuser, and be represented by  
874 counsel.

875 The chairman may continue any hearing for reasonable cause,  
876 and upon the vote of a majority of the committee or upon the  
877 request of any person subject to investigation, the chairman shall  
878 issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and  
879 the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter  
880 under formal investigation by the committee.

881 All testimony, documents, records, data, statements or  
882 information received by the committee in the course of any  
883 investigation shall be private and confidential, except in the  
884 case of public hearings or in a report to the House. The  
885 committee may release any confidential information, including a  
886 report thereon, regarding any member, officer or employee at the  
887 request of such member, officer or employee. No report shall be  
888 made to the House unless a majority of the committee has made a  
889 finding of unethical or improper conduct on the part of the person  
890 under investigation. No finding of unethical or improper conduct  
891 shall be valid unless signed by at least a majority of the  
892 committee. Any such report may include a minority report. No



893 action shall be taken on any finding of improper or unethical  
894 conduct nor shall such finding or report containing such finding  
895 be made public sooner than seven (7) days after a copy of the  
896 finding is sent by certified mail to the member, officer or  
897 employee under investigation.

898         The committee may meet with a committee of the Senate to hold  
899 investigations or hearings involving employees of the two (2)  
900 houses jointly or employees of the Legislative Reference Bureau,  
901 the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and  
902 Expenditure Review, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and any  
903 other joint committee created by the Legislature; provided,  
904 however, no action may be taken at a joint meeting unless it is  
905 approved by a majority of the committee.

906         In the event that a member of the committee shall be under  
907 investigation, such member shall be temporarily replaced on the  
908 committee in a like manner as said member's original appointment.

909         The committee, whether or not at the request of a member,  
910 officer or employee concerned about an ethical problem relating to  
911 himself alone or in conjunction with others, may render advisory  
912 opinions with regard to questions pertaining to legislative ethics  
913 or decorum. Such advisory opinions, with such deletions and  
914 changes as shall be necessary to protect the identity of the  
915 person involved or seeking them, may be published and distributed  
916 to all the members of the House.

917         Any member of the committee breaching the confidentiality of  
918 materials and events as set forth in this rule shall, by a  
919 majority vote of the committee, be removed immediately from the  
920 committee and replaced by another member of the House in a like

921 manner as said member's original appointment.

922 Any officer or employee of the House shall be subject to the  
923 same restriction of confidentiality as a member of the committee,  
924 and a breach of this restriction shall be grounds for dismissal of  
925 any officer or employee.

926 The committee may adopt rules of procedure for the orderly  
927 conduct of its affairs, investigations, hearings and meetings,  
928 which rules are not inconsistent with this rule.

929 The committee shall continue to exist and have authority and  
930 power to function after the sine die adjournment of the  
931 Legislature, and shall so continue until the expiration of the  
932 then current term of office of the members of the committee.

933 CODE OF ETHICS

934 63B. In addition to the other rules of the House of  
935 Representatives, and in supplement thereto, the following Code of  
936 Ethics is established as a standard of conduct for members.

937 (1) No member, officer or employee of the House shall:

938 (a) Accept employment or engage in any business or  
939 professional activity which will require him to disclose  
940 confidential information which he has gained by reason of his  
941 official position or authority;

942 (b) Improperly disclose confidential information  
943 acquired by him in the course of his official duties nor use such  
944 information to further his personal interests;

945 (c) Use or attempt to use his official position to  
946 secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others;

947 (d) Use for private gain any information not  
948 available to the public at large and acquired by him solely by

949 virtue of his position, and no information described in this  
950 subsection shall be disclosed by a member to others for purposes  
951 of their use for private gain.

952           (2) Each member, officer or employee of the House shall  
953 file the statement of economic interest or any other statement  
954 required to be filed by the Mississippi Ethics Commission which  
955 shall be signed under oath as to the accuracy and completeness of  
956 the information set forth to the best knowledge of the person  
957 submitting such statement.

958           Required statements hereunder shall be filed with the  
959 Mississippi Ethics Commission with such information as is required  
960 by law. In the event of any substantial change occurring after  
961 the time required for filing as to matters covered in this  
962 section, a supplemental statement shall be filed within thirty  
963 (30) days thereafter reflecting such new information.

964           In addition to the filings required herein, a member may make  
965 additional filings with a request for an advisory opinion from the  
966 Ethics Committee on any matter which the member feels is subject  
967 to interpretation under this rule.

968           (3) Any member who shall undertake to represent or to  
969 intervene for any person for compensation before any state agency  
970 shall file a statement with the Ethics Committee within thirty  
971 (30) days after undertaking said representation. Such statement  
972 shall identify the person represented and the nature of the  
973 business involved; provided, however, that this provision shall  
974 not apply: (a) where such representation involves only the  
975 uncontested or routine actions of administrative officers or  
976 employees of the state in issuing or renewing a license, charter,

certificate or similar document, and (b) where such representation is before the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.

(4) In addition to the filings required herein, copies of the statements required to be filed under this rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State. Such statements shall be open to the general public and shall be filed at the same time as filings required hereinabove.

64. Appropriation and revenue bills shall, at regular sessions of the Legislature, have precedence over all other business and no such bill shall be passed during the last five (5) days of the session.

65. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Engrossed and Enrolled Bills to examine all engrossed and enrolled bills, correct all mistakes therein, and report the bills to the House and this report shall be in order at any time.

#### THE PREVIOUS QUESTION

66. There shall be a motion for the previous question, which being ordered by a majority of members voting, if a quorum be present, shall have the effect to cut off all debate and bring the House to a direct vote upon the immediate question, or questions, on which it has been asked and ordered, except that each side shall be allowed ten (10) minutes on the main question and five (5) minutes on any subsidiary question for debate, the affirmative closing the debate. The previous question may be asked and ordered upon a single motion, a series of motions allowable under the rules, or an amendment or amendments, or may be made to embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill to its recommitment, passage or rejection. It shall be in order

1005 after the previous question shall have been ordered on its  
1006 passage, for the Speaker to entertain and submit a motion without  
1007 debate to recommit, with or without instruction, to a standing or  
1008 select committee. Provided, however, a motion to reconsider the  
1009 vote whereby an amendment has been adopted or rejected shall not  
1010 be in order after the previous question has been ordered.

1011 67. If the previous question is lost, the motion may not be  
1012 renewed until a subsequent vote has been taken on any matter.

1013 68. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion  
1014 is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall  
1015 be decided, whether an appeal or otherwise, without debate.

1016 ON CALLS OF THE ROLL

1017 69. Upon every roll call the names of the members shall be  
1018 called alphabetically by surname, except when two (2) or more have  
1019 the same surname, in which case the name of the county shall be  
1020 added; and if there be two (2) such members from the same county,  
1021 the name and initials shall be called, and after the roll has been  
1022 once called, the Clerk shall call in their alphabetical order the  
1023 names of those not voting; and thereafter the Speaker shall not  
1024 entertain a request to record a vote or announce a pair; and the  
1025 yeas and nays on any question shall be entered on the Journal, at  
1026 the request of one-tenth (1/10) of the members present; and the  
1027 yeas and nays shall be entered on the Journal on the final passage  
1028 of every bill.

1029 ABSENCE OF QUORUM

1030 70. In the absence of a quorum, fifteen (15) members,  
1031 including the Speaker, if there is one, shall be authorized to  
1032 compel the attendance of absent members, and in all calls of the

1033 House the doors shall be closed, the names of the members shall be  
1034 called by the Clerk, and the absentees noted; and those for whom  
1035 no sufficient excuse is made may, by order of a majority of those  
1036 present, be sent for and arrested, wherever they may be found, by  
1037 officers appointed by the Sergeant at Arms for that purpose, and  
1038 their attendance secured and retained; and the House shall  
1039 determine upon what condition they shall be discharged. Members  
1040 who voluntarily appear shall, unless the House otherwise direct,  
1041 be immediately admitted to the Hall of the House, and they shall  
1042 report their names to the Clerk to be entered upon the Journal as  
1043 present.

1044       71. On the demand of any member, or at the suggestion of the  
1045 Speaker, the names of members sufficient to make a quorum in the  
1046 Hall of the House who do not vote shall be noted by the Clerk and  
1047 recorded in the Journal, and reported to the Speaker with the  
1048 names of the members voting and be counted and announced in  
1049 determining the presence of a quorum to do business.

1050       72. Whenever a quorum fails to vote on any question and a  
1051 quorum is not present and objection is made for that cause, unless  
1052 the House shall adjourn there shall be a call of the House, and  
1053 the Sergeant at Arms shall forthwith proceed to bring absent  
1054 members, and the yeas and nays on the pending question shall at  
1055 the same time be considered as ordered.

1056       The Clerk shall call the roll, and each member as he answers  
1057 to his name may vote on the pending question, and, after the roll  
1058 call is completed, each member arrested shall be brought by the  
1059 Sergeant at Arms before the House, whereupon he shall be noted as  
1060 present, discharged from arrest, and given an opportunity to vote

1061 and his vote shall be recorded. If those voting on the question  
1062 and those who are present and decline to vote shall together make  
1063 a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum  
1064 is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as the  
1065 majority of those voting shall appear; and thereupon further  
1066 proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with.  
1067 At any time after the roll call has been completed, the Speaker  
1068 may entertain a motion to adjourn, if seconded by a majority of  
1069 those present, to be ascertained by actual count by the Speaker;  
1070 and if the House adjourns, all proceedings under this section  
1071 shall be vacated.

1072 DIVISION OF QUESTION

1073 73. On demand of any member, before the question is put, a  
1074 question shall be divided if it include propositions so distinct  
1075 in substance, that one being taken away, a substantive proposition  
1076 shall remain.

1077 74. Questions of privilege shall be:

1078 First, those affecting the rights of the House collectively,  
1079 its safety, dignity and the integrity of its proceedings.

1080 Second, the rights, reputation and conduct of members  
1081 individually in their representative capacity only; and shall have  
1082 precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn.

1083 HOURS OF MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

1084 75. Two o'clock in the afternoon shall be the standing hour  
1085 to which the House shall adjourn.

1086 76. The hour at which every motion to adjourn is made shall  
1087 be entered on the Journal.

1088 77. The regular hour for committee meetings shall be at 9:00

1089 o'clock a.m., unless otherwise ordered by the committee and it  
1090 shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to prescribe a schedule  
1091 for regular meetings of standing committees.

1092         78. Every bill or resolution, when favorably reported by the  
1093 proper committee, shall be reproduced with sufficient copies so  
1094 that copies thereof may be placed on the desk of every member  
1095 before any such bill or resolution shall be placed on final  
1096 passage. No bill or resolution shall be considered by the House  
1097 unless members have been furnished copies thereof, except by  
1098 unanimous consent. When a bill or resolution is being considered  
1099 by the House, all amendments offered have been disposed of, and  
1100 two (2) or more major amendments have been adopted, any member may  
1101 move that the bill be engrossed. If such motion be adopted by a  
1102 majority of those present and voting, further consideration of  
1103 such bill or resolution shall be suspended until the bill or  
1104 resolution has been engrossed and all members present have been  
1105 furnished copies of the engrossed bill or resolution. When the  
1106 membership shall have been furnished copies of the engrossed bill  
1107 or resolution, the bill or resolution shall then become pending  
1108 business of the House as soon as the main question then under  
1109 consideration shall have been disposed of. The committee or any  
1110 member proposing a substitute or an amendment which is, in effect,  
1111 a substitute for an entire bill or resolution, shall provide all  
1112 members present copies of any such substitute or amendment before  
1113 the same shall be voted on for consideration or adoption except on  
1114 suspension of the rules.

1115         79. When a bill, memorial or resolution has been finally  
1116 rejected in the House, it shall not again be introduced or



1117 considered during the same session without notice of three (3)  
1118 days and leave of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and  
1119 voting, and a bill so offered for reintroduction shall be regarded  
1120 as the same, if it deals substantially with the same subject  
1121 matter.

1122 SPECIAL ORDER

1123 80. Special orders of the day not disposed of on the day  
1124 assigned, shall stand for every succeeding day, until disposed of.

1125 81. (1) A motion to postpone to a day certain shall require  
1126 a majority of those present and voting for its adoption, but a  
1127 motion to postpone to a time certain shall be deemed, and treated  
1128 as, a motion to set as a special order. (2) A motion to set a  
1129 special order may be amended as to time. It is debatable only as  
1130 to the question of setting the special order and does not open up  
1131 the main question to debate. (3) A motion to set a special order  
1132 shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and  
1133 voting. (4) When special orders that have been made at different  
1134 times come into conflict, the one that was first made takes  
1135 precedence over all special orders made afterwards, although the  
1136 latter were made for an earlier hour.

1137 CALENDARS

1138 82. Bills reported by committees shall be given a serial  
1139 number by the Clerk and shall be placed on the calendar in the  
1140 order in which reported by the committee and shall be called for  
1141 consideration in that order. When a bill is called for  
1142 consideration in the order in which placed on the calendar and is  
1143 not considered by the House, it shall go to the heel of the  
1144 calendar; provided, however, that separate calendars shall be kept

1145 for the bills reported by the Committees on Ways and Means,  
1146 Appropriations, and Local and Private Legislation.

1147       83. Any committee or individual member of the House may  
1148 apply to the Committee on Rules to set a time for the taking up,  
1149 ahead of its regular place on the calendar, of any measure  
1150 favorably reported by the committee to which the measure has been  
1151 referred. The Committee on Rules may grant such request by a  
1152 majority vote. The Committee on Rules may designate a day of each  
1153 legislative week as a noncontroversial bill day. When such a day  
1154 be designated, all bills appearing on the calendar shall be  
1155 considered in their regular order provided, however, that should  
1156 ten percent (10%) of the membership object to any measure on the  
1157 noncontroversial calendar stating that it is of a controversial  
1158 nature, that measure shall go to the heel of the General House  
1159 Calendar.

1160       84. The calendar shall be made up from day to day.

1161                               MINORITY REPORT

1162       85. Bills adversely reported by the committees shall not be  
1163 placed on the calendar at all unless accompanied by a minority  
1164 report signed by one or more members who were present at the  
1165 committee meeting at which the bill was reported. Minority  
1166 reports must be filed within three (3) legislative days after the  
1167 bill has been reported by the committee; a minority report shall  
1168 be placed on the calendar at the heel of favorably reported bills  
1169 and shall not be considered until all favorably reported bills are  
1170 disposed of, except on a suspension of the rules on a two-thirds  
1171 (2/3) vote of those elected to the House and on roll call,  
1172 whereupon, the House may proceed immediately to the consideration

1173     thereof.

1174             86.   Matters affecting the public interest and regarded as of  
1175   immediate necessity may be advanced on the calendar by the Rules  
1176   Committee, and such matters may also be advanced on the calendar  
1177   by a vote of a majority of the members elected to the House of  
1178   Representatives.

1179                                     RULES

1180             87.   The permanent Rules of the House may not be changed or  
1181   amended except by three (3) days' notice by a motion entered in  
1182   writing and placed on the Journal and by a vote of three-fifths  
1183   (3/5) of those present and voting, except that no rule shall be  
1184   changed or amended unless at least a majority of the elected  
1185   members of the House of Representatives vote for said change or  
1186   amendment.

1187             Provided, however, the rules, or a rule, may be amended or  
1188   changed by a resolution referred to the Rules Committee, reported  
1189   favorably, and adopted by a majority of the elected members of the  
1190   House of Representatives, and such resolutions, once reported,  
1191   shall not be amended except by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the  
1192   elected members of the House of Representatives.

1193             A motion to reconsider the vote whereby a rule has been  
1194   adopted or failed shall not be in order at any time.

1195             88.   The current Rules of the House of Representatives of the  
1196   United States shall govern in all cases to which they are  
1197   applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the  
1198   foregoing rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of  
1199   Representatives, and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi.

1200             89.   No person shall be entitled to enter upon the floor of

1201 the House except: Members, their spouses, former members of the  
1202 Legislature, unless said former member is a registered lobbyist,  
1203 officers and employees of the House; members, officers and  
1204 employees of the Senate; members of the news media who have proper  
1205 credentials issued by the Rules Committee; ministers invited by  
1206 the Speaker or the Clerk; and such others as the Committee on  
1207 Rules may designate.

1208       Doors between the lobby and the cloak room, and the door  
1209 between the lobby and the Hall of the House shall be kept closed.  
1210 Visitors invited and personally accompanied by members are  
1211 permitted in the lobby. The Speaker is charged with the  
1212 enforcement of this rule, and it shall be the duty of any member,  
1213 officer or employee of the House to inform the Speaker of any  
1214 violation of this rule. This rule is applicable from one (1) hour  
1215 before the House convenes each day until the House adjourns each  
1216 day.

1217       90. Privilege of reports from Committee on Rules, and  
1218 limitations thereon.

1219       It shall always be in order to call up for consideration a  
1220 report from the Committee on Rules (except it shall not be called  
1221 up for consideration on the same day it is presented to the House,  
1222 unless so determined by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3)  
1223 of the members voting, but this provision shall not apply during  
1224 the last days of the session), and, pending the consideration  
1225 thereof, the Speaker may entertain one (1) motion that the House  
1226 adjourn; but after the result is announced he shall not entertain  
1227 any other dilatory motion until the said report shall have been  
1228 fully disposed of.

1229           91. No committee, except the Committee on Rules, shall sit  
1230 during the sitting of the House, without special leave.

1231                               INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

1232           92. Each member, who desires to introduce a bill shall place  
1233 same in box in front of the Clerk's desk at any hour to suit his  
1234 convenience, and the Clerk is instructed to take these out at each  
1235 session when the order for introduction of bills and  
1236 constitutional amendments is reached, and read their titles, and  
1237 after the expiration of one (1) legislative day the Speaker shall  
1238 refer them to the proper committees; provided, however, that this  
1239 shall not prevent the immediate references of said bills or  
1240 constitutional amendments under a suspension of the rules.

1241           93. All bills and resolutions must be typewritten or  
1242 printed. Bills and resolutions must be introduced in original  
1243 form (not carbon, photocopy or facsimile) and should be free from  
1244 interlineations, corrections and strikeouts, whether with ink,  
1245 pencil or typewriter. Amendments proposed by members or by  
1246 committees must not be written into a bill or resolution until  
1247 such amendments shall be adopted by the House.

1248           94. In addition to any other time provided by law or by  
1249 rule, members of the House may file bills or resolutions with the  
1250 Clerk of the House at any time during the period between sessions  
1251 of the Legislature. Such prefiled bills shall be numbered by the  
1252 Clerk of the House and referred by the Speaker to the appropriate  
1253 standing committee of the House for study. Such prefiled bills  
1254 shall be introduced in the order filed on the first day of the  
1255 next succeeding regular session of the Legislature, or special  
1256 session if included within the Governor's call, and referred to

1257 committee in the regular order of business of the House.

1258 WITHDRAW FROM COMMITTEE

1259 95. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2),  
1260 (3) and (4) of this rule, every House bill, resolution or measure  
1261 referred to any committee, and not reported therefrom with a  
1262 recommendation by the twenty-seventh day of a ninety-day session  
1263 and by the sixty-second day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day  
1264 session, and every Senate bill, resolution or measure referred to  
1265 any committee, and not reported therefrom by the fifty-fifth day  
1266 of a ninety-day session and by the ninetieth day of a  
1267 one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, may be withdrawn from said  
1268 committee on a motion made in writing, which said motion must be  
1269 read by the clerk immediately upon its introduction, setting forth  
1270 the reasons why said bill should be withdrawn from the committee,  
1271 by a vote of a majority of the members elected to the House. It  
1272 may then be taken up and considered by the Committee of the Whole  
1273 House in accordance with the procedure set forth in House Rule 56,  
1274 or, by a majority vote of those present and voting it may be  
1275 recommitted to a standing committee. Provided, that during  
1276 extraordinary or special sessions of the Legislature, any bill,  
1277 including an appropriation or revenue bill, may be withdrawn from  
1278 committee after five (5) days from the date of reference. A  
1279 motion to withdraw a bill from a committee shall not be voted upon  
1280 by the House on the day which the motion is made, except upon  
1281 suspension of the rules by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those  
1282 present and voting.

1283 (2) Any House appropriation bill or revenue bill  
1284 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways

1285 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a  
1286 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may  
1287 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure  
1288 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for  
1289 withdrawal is made by the fiftieth day of a ninety-day session and  
1290 by the eighty-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session.

1291           (3) Any Senate appropriation bill or revenue bill  
1292 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways  
1293 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a  
1294 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may  
1295 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure  
1296 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for  
1297 withdrawal is made by the seventieth day of a ninety-day session  
1298 and by the one-hundred-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day  
1299 session.

1300           (4) For the purposes of this rule, the term 'revenue  
1301 bill' shall include only those bills whose primary purpose is to  
1302 increase or decrease taxes or to authorize the issuance of bonds  
1303 or the borrowing of money. Bills which are primarily for  
1304 regulatory purposes which have revenue provisions included shall  
1305 not be considered as revenue bills for the purposes of this rule.

1306                       BILLS SHALL LIE ON TABLE ONE DAY

1307           96. Every bill or resolution requiring the signature of the  
1308 Governor, all resolutions proposing amendments to the  
1309 Constitution, and all reports of committees except the report of  
1310 the Committee on Rules, shall lie on the table one (1) day before  
1311 being considered except by suspension of the rules.

1312                       ROLL CALLS

1313           97. When taking the yeas and nays on any question to be  
1314 voted upon, the electrical roll-call system may be used, and, when  
1315 so used, shall have the same force and effect as a roll call taken  
1316 as otherwise provided in the Rules of the House.

1317           When the House is ready to vote upon any question requiring a  
1318 roll call and the vote is to be taken by the electrical roll-call  
1319 system, the Speaker shall announce:

1320           "The question is on the passage of (designating the matter to  
1321 be voted upon). All in favor of such question shall vote 'yea';  
1322 all opposed shall vote 'nay.' The House will now proceed to vote."

1323           When sufficient time has been allowed the members to vote,  
1324 the Speaker shall announce: "Have all voted?" And after a short  
1325 pause, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to lock the machine and  
1326 record the vote.

1327           The Clerk shall immediately start the vote-recording  
1328 equipment and, when the vote is completely recorded, shall advise  
1329 the Speaker of the result, and the Speaker shall announce the  
1330 result to the House. The Clerk shall enter upon the Journal the  
1331 result in the manner provided by the Rules of the House.

1332           After the voting machine has been locked, but prior to the  
1333 display of the tabulated vote on the electric voting board of the  
1334 result of a roll call, any member may request to (1) change his  
1335 vote, or (2) vote. After the vote has been tabulated and  
1336 displayed on the electric voting board, a member with unanimous  
1337 consent may change his vote on the measure, except that no such  
1338 change of vote shall be permitted where such vote would alter the  
1339 final vote on the measure.

1340           No member shall vote for another member, nor shall any person



1341 not a member cast a vote for a member. In addition to such  
1342 penalties as may be prescribed by law, any member who shall vote  
1343 or attempt to vote for another member may be punished in such a  
1344 manner as the House may determine. If a person not a member shall  
1345 vote or attempt to vote for any member, he shall be barred from  
1346 the floor of the House for the remainder of the session and may be  
1347 punished further in such manner as the House may deem proper, in  
1348 addition to such punishment as may be prescribed by law.

1349 98. Neither the Speaker nor the House exercises jurisdiction  
1350 over pairs, and the only cognizance of them taken by the rules is  
1351 the provision for the announcement and publication.

1352 99. No member shall be permitted to give an oral  
1353 explanation of his vote but may reduce his explanation to writing  
1354 in not more than one hundred (100) words, and upon filing with the  
1355 Clerk, this explanation shall be spread on the Journal.

1356 MOTION TO RECONSIDER

1357 100. Any member voting on any measure, shall be privileged  
1358 to enter a motion to reconsider the vote whereby the measure is  
1359 disposed of, at any time within the period prescribed by the rules  
1360 of this House.

1361 101. A motion to reconsider having been properly made and  
1362 entered in the Journal shall become the property of the House and  
1363 may be called up by any member of the House.

1364 When a measure requires more than a majority vote for passage  
1365 it may still be reconsidered by a majority vote.

1366 102. When a bill is read the third time in regular order,  
1367 and not under suspension of the rules, it shall be considered  
1368 engrossed and the House on the next or any succeeding legislative

1369 day may proceed to a vote on its final passage in the same manner  
1370 as if the rules had been suspended for its consideration.

1371 PASSAGE OVER VETO

1372 103. (1) Upon return of a bill without the approval of the  
1373 Governor accompanied by the Governor's objections to the bill, the  
1374 House shall proceed to reconsider the bill by either an immediate  
1375 vote on the motion for passage, a Governor's veto notwithstanding,  
1376 or by referral to the committee which originally recommended said  
1377 bill. The manner of reconsideration shall be determined, upon  
1378 proper motion, by majority vote of those present. Should the bill  
1379 be reconsidered by referral to the committee of origin, said  
1380 committee shall report, with written recommendations, to the full  
1381 House not more than three (3) legislative days from the referral  
1382 of the bill in question. At the time of the report of such  
1383 committee only two (2) courses shall be open:

1384 (a) Allow Governor's veto to stand.

1385 (b) Override Governor's veto.

1386 Only one (1) motion for the two (2) courses shall be in order  
1387 and that is the motion for passage, a Governor's veto  
1388 notwithstanding. Said motion, while not mandatory, shall be in  
1389 order at any time on the same legislative day that the report of  
1390 the committee is made but shall not be in order thereafter.

1391 (2) Upon calling up a bill for reconsideration and  
1392 passage, a Governor's veto notwithstanding, the question before  
1393 the House is not of reconsideration but that of overriding the  
1394 Governor's veto.

1395 (3) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present  
1396 and voting, a quorum being present, is required to pass a bill

1397 over a Governor's veto.

1398 (4) A motion to reconsider the vote by which a vetoed  
1399 bill is passed or rejected is not in order.

1400 104. The space immediately below the Clerk's desk shall be  
1401 set aside to accommodate representatives of the press, radio and  
1402 television media wishing to report proceedings and such  
1403 representatives shall be admitted to such area under such  
1404 regulations as the Rules Committee may from time to time  
1405 prescribe. The supervision of such portion of the floor shall be  
1406 fixed in the Committee on Rules.

1407 (a) The correspondents shall abide by such rules and  
1408 regulations as may be adopted by the Rules Committee.

1409 (b) The press table allotted to representatives of the  
1410 news media shall be for their exclusive use and persons not  
1411 holding correspondents' cards shall not be entitled to admission  
1412 thereto.

1413 OPEN MEETINGS

1414 104A. All official meetings of any standing, interim or  
1415 special committee of the House of Representatives, but not  
1416 including conference committees, unless otherwise provided by this  
1417 rule or the Constitution of the United States or the State of  
1418 Mississippi, are declared to be public meetings and shall be open  
1419 to the public at all times unless declared an executive session as  
1420 provided herein. Any such House committee may enter into  
1421 executive session for the transaction of public business;  
1422 provided, however, all meetings of any such committee shall  
1423 commence as an open meeting, and an affirmative vote of a majority  
1424 of all members present shall be required to declare an executive

1425 session. The procedure to be followed by such committee in  
1426 declaring an executive session shall be as follows: Any member  
1427 shall have the right to require a closed determination upon the  
1428 issue of whether or not to declare an executive session. Such  
1429 member, by motion, shall require the meeting to be closed for a  
1430 preliminary determination of the necessity for executive session.

1431 No other business shall be transacted until the discussion of the  
1432 nature of the matter requiring executive session has been  
1433 completed and a vote taken on the issue. The total vote on the  
1434 question of entering into an executive session shall be recorded  
1435 and spread upon the minutes of such committee. Any such vote  
1436 whereby executive session is declared shall be applicable only to  
1437 that particular meeting.

1438 Any such House committee may make and enforce reasonable  
1439 rules and regulations for the conduct of persons attending its  
1440 meetings.

1441 Minutes shall be kept of all House committees, in open or  
1442 executive session, and shall consist of a written record of  
1443 attendance and final actions taken at such meetings. Such minutes  
1444 shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours  
1445 within a reasonable time after adjournment.

1446 During a regular or special session of the Legislature,  
1447 notice of meetings of all House committees, other than conference  
1448 committees, shall be given by announcement on the loudspeaker  
1449 during sessions of the House or by posting on a bulletin board  
1450 provided for that purpose.

1451 When not in session, the meeting times and places of all  
1452 House committees shall be kept by the Clerk of the House of

1453 Representatives and shall be available at all times during regular  
1454 working hours to the public and news media.

1455 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1456 105. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other,  
1457 adjourn for more than three (3) days, nor to any other place than  
1458 that in which the two (2) houses shall be sitting (Art. 4, Sec.  
1459 57, Constitution).

1460 106. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its  
1461 title only, but the section or sections, as amended or revived,  
1462 shall be inserted at length. (Art. 4, Sec. 61, Constitution).

1463 107. No appropriation bill shall be passed by the  
1464 Legislature which does not fix definitely the maximum sum thereby  
1465 authorized to be drawn from the Treasury. (Art. 4, Sec. 63,  
1466 Constitution).

1467 108. All votes on the final passage of any measure shall be  
1468 subject to reconsideration for at least one (1) whole legislative  
1469 day, and no motion to reconsider such vote shall be disposed of  
1470 adversely on the day on which the original vote was taken, except  
1471 on the last day of the session. (Art. 4, Sec. 65, Constitution).

1472 109. No new bill shall be introduced into either house of  
1473 the Legislature during the last three (3) days of the session.  
1474 (Art. 4, Sec. 67, Constitution).

1475 110. No law granting a gratuity or donation in favor of any  
1476 person or object shall be enacted except by the concurrence of  
1477 two-thirds (2/3) of the members-elect of each branch of the  
1478 Legislature, nor by any vote for a sectarian purpose or use. (Art.  
1479 4, Sec. 66, Constitution).

1480 111. General appropriation bills shall contain only the

1481 appropriations to defray the ordinary expenses of the executive,  
1482 legislative and judicial departments of the government; to pay  
1483 interest on state bonds and to support the common schools. All  
1484 other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each  
1485 embracing but one (1) subject. Legislation shall not be engrafted  
1486 on appropriation bills, but the same may prescribe the conditions  
1487 on which the money may be drawn, and for what purposes paid. (Art.  
1488 4, Sec. 69, Constitution).

1489       112. No revenue bill, or any bill providing for assessments  
1490 of property for taxation, shall become a law except by a vote of  
1491 at least three-fifths (3/5) of the members of each house present  
1492 and voting. (Art. 4, Sec. 70, Constitution).

1493       113. Every bill introduced into the Legislature shall have a  
1494 title, and the title ought to indicate clearly the subject matter  
1495 or matters of the proposed legislation. Each committee to which a  
1496 bill may be referred shall express, in writing, its judgment of  
1497 the sufficiency of the title of the bill, and this, too, whether  
1498 the recommendation be that the bill do pass or do not pass. (Art.  
1499 4, Sec. 71, Constitution).

1500       114. No bill shall become a law until it shall have been  
1501 referred to a committee of each house and returned therefrom with  
1502 a recommendation in writing. (Art. 4, Sec. 74, Constitution).

1503       115. No bill passed after the adoption of this Constitution  
1504 to make appropriations of money out of the State Treasury shall  
1505 continue in force more than two (2) months after the expiration of  
1506 the fiscal year ending after the meeting of the Legislature at its  
1507 next regular session; nor shall such bill be passed except by the  
1508 votes of a majority of all the members elected to each house of

1509 the Legislature. (Art. 4, Sec. 64, Constitution).

1510       116. There shall be appointed in each house of the  
1511 Legislature a standing committee on Local and Private Legislation;  
1512 the House committee to consist of seven (7) Representatives, and  
1513 the Senate committee of five (5) Senators. No local or private  
1514 bill shall be passed in either house until it shall have been  
1515 referred to said committee thereof, and shall have been reported  
1516 back with a recommendation in writing that it do pass, stating  
1517 affirmatively the reasons therefor, and why the end to be  
1518 accomplished should not be reached by a general law, or by a  
1519 proceeding in court; or if the recommendation of the committee be  
1520 that the bill do not pass, then it shall not pass the house to  
1521 which it is so reported unless it be voted by a majority of all  
1522 the members elected thereto. If a bill is passed in conformity to  
1523 the requirements hereof, other than such as are prohibited in the  
1524 next section, the courts shall not, because of its local, special,  
1525 or private nature, refuse to enforce it. (Art. 4, Sec. 89,  
1526 Constitution).