

By: Representatives Horne, McCoy, Ford,
Clark, Flaggs, Holland, Moody, Peranich,
Scott (17th), Stevens, Barnett (92nd), Davis,
Fillingane, Formby, Watson, Reynolds

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO AMEND JOINT RULE 23 OF THE SENATE
2 AND THE HOUSE TO ALLOW OBSERVERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC
3 TO BE PRESENT AT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS; TO
4 PROVIDE FOR NOTICE OF THE LOCATION OF SUCH MEETINGS.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
6 OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That Joint Rule 23
7 of the 2000-2004 Joint Rules of the Senate and the House is
8 amended as follows:

9 "23. (1) Conference committees shall meet as soon as
10 practicable and proceed to confer on the differences between the
11 two (2) Houses, seeking to resolve such differences.

12 (2) The conference committee shall report in writing and
13 such report shall be signed by a majority of the members thereof
14 and submitted to both Houses. Six (6) copies of each report shall
15 be typed, five (5) of which may be carbon copies.

16 (3) (a) Persons who are not appointed members of the
17 committee, including members of the general public, shall be
18 allowed to observe meetings of a conference committee pertaining
19 to a general or revenue bill or to a resolution proposing a
20 constitutional amendment; however, any member of the committee may
21 excuse himself or herself from a meeting at which observers are
22 present, in order to conduct a private discussion with one or more
23 other members of the committee. For purposes of this subsection,
24 the terms "general or revenue bill" and "resolution proposing a
25 constitutional amendment" include those measures considered as
26 either a general bill, a revenue bill or a constitutional
27 amendment for deadline purposes under Joint Rule 40.

28 (b) The chairman of each Senate and House committee to
29 which such bills or resolutions are first referred shall designate
30 one or more rooms in which the conference committee meetings
31 pertaining to such bills and resolutions shall be held. The
32 designation of the rooms shall be announced each session before
33 the deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from the other
34 House to general bills and constitutional amendments, and copies
35 of a list of these rooms shall be available in the respective
36 offices of the committee chairmen. This announcement shall
37 constitute notice of the place of the meetings of conference
38 committees and notice that the time of each meeting shall not be
39 announced individually. If a conference committee meets in a
40 location other than a designated room, a written notice giving the
41 location of the meeting shall be posted on a bulletin board in a
42 conspicuous place in one (1) of the designated rooms.

43 (c) If any statute or rule of either House of the
44 Legislature conflicts with the provisions of this subsection, the
45 provisions of this subsection shall supersede the conflicting
46 statute or rule to the extent of the conflict.

47 (d) The provisions of this subsection shall take effect
48 and be in force from and after its adoption and shall stand
49 repealed from and after sine die adjournment of the 2002 Regular
50 Session."