

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 528

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 213-A, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO RECONSTITUTE THE  
3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF  
4 HIGHER LEARNING BY PROVIDING THAT TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED  
5 FROM CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AS THE DISTRICTS EXIST AT THE TIME OF  
6 THE APPOINTMENT AND FOUR MEMBERS FROM THE STATE AT LARGE; TO  
7 PROVIDE, IN CASE OF A VACANCY, THAT THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A  
8 MEMBER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT  
9 OF THE SENATE; TO REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE ALUMNUS FROM EACH STATE  
10 UNIVERSITY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
12 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi  
13 Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the  
14 state:

15 Amend Section 213-A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to  
16 read as follows:

17 Section 213-A. The state institutions of higher  
18 learning \* \* \* in Mississippi, to wit: University of Mississippi,  
19 Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science,  
20 Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern  
21 Mississippi, Delta State University, Alcorn State University,  
22 Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and  
23 any others \* \* \* which may be hereafter organized or established  
24 by the State of Mississippi, shall be under the management and  
25 control of a board of trustees to be known as the Board of  
26 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. The \* \* \*  
27 Governor \* \* \* shall appoint the members of the board with the  
28 advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall appoint only  
29 individuals who are qualified electors residing in the district  
30 from which each is appointed, \* \* \* at least twenty-five (25)  
31 years of age, and of the highest order of intelligence, character,



32 learning and fitness for the performance of their duties, to the  
33 end that the board shall perform its high and honorable  
34 duties \* \* \* to the greatest advantage of the people of the state  
35 and the educational institutions, uninfluenced by any political  
36 considerations. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
37 Higher Learning shall be composed of twelve (12) members and shall  
38 be reconstituted as follows: The Governor shall appoint two (2)  
39 members from each congressional district \* \* \* as the districts  
40 exist at the time the appointments are made and shall appoint the  
41 remaining four (4) members from the state at large. The Governor  
42 shall appoint to the board not less than one (1) member who is a  
43 graduate of the University of Mississippi, not less than one (1)  
44 member who is a graduate of Mississippi State University of  
45 Agriculture and Applied Science, not less than one (1) member who  
46 is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, not less than  
47 one (1) member who is a graduate of the University of Southern  
48 Mississippi, not less than one (1) member who is a graduate of  
49 Delta State University, not less than one (1) member who is a  
50 graduate of Alcorn State University, not less than one (1) member  
51 who is a graduate of Jackson State University, and not less than  
52 one (1) member who is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State  
53 University. The term of office of the trustees \* \* \* shall  
54 be \* \* \* twelve (12) years. The members of the board of trustees  
55 as constituted at the time this amendment is adopted and as  
56 constituted when congressional districts are altered shall  
57 continue to hold office until their respective terms expire \* \* \*.  
58 In case of a vacancy \* \* \*, the Governor shall appoint a \* \* \*  
59 member \* \* \* for the remainder of the term, with the advice and  
60 consent of the Senate.

61 The Legislature shall provide by law for the appointment of a  
62 trustee for the La Bauve Fund at the University of Mississippi and  
63 for the perpetuation of the fund.



64        The board shall have the power and authority to elect the  
65 heads of the various institutions of higher learning, and contract  
66 with all deans, professors and other members of the teaching  
67 staff, and all administrative employees of the institutions for a  
68 term not exceeding four (4) years; but the board shall have the  
69 power and authority to terminate any such contract at any time for  
70 malfeasance, inefficiency or contumacious conduct, but never for  
71 political reasons.

72        Nothing herein contained shall in any way limit or take away  
73 the power the Legislature had and possessed, if any, at the time  
74 of the adoption of this amendment, to consolidate, abolish or  
75 change the status of any of the above named institutions.

76        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment to the  
77 Constitution shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this  
78 state at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the  
79 first Monday of November 2002, in the manner provided by Section  
80 273 of the Constitution and by law.

81        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
82 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
83 amendment provides that new members of the twelve-member Board of  
84 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall be  
85 composed of two (2) members from each congressional district as  
86 they exist at the time of the appointment and the remainder of the  
87 members from the state at large. The amendment also requires the  
88 Governor to appoint at least one (1) alumnus from each state  
89 university to be a member of the board. In case of a vacancy, the  
90 Governor appoints a member for the remainder of the term with the  
91 advice and consent of the Senate."

