

By: Senator(s) Blackmon

To: Universities and
Colleges; Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 542

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 213-A OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 TO REQUIRE THAT EACH
3 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
4 LEARNING MUST HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE; TO REQUIRE EACH UNIVERSITY TO
5 HAVE AT LEAST ONE ALUMNUS ON THE BOARD.

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

10 Amend Section 213-A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to
11 read as follows:

12 Section 213-A. The state institutions of higher learning now
13 existing in Mississippi, to wit: University of Mississippi,
14 Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science,
15 Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern
16 Mississippi, Delta State University, Alcorn State University,
17 Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and
18 any others of like kind which may be hereafter organized or
19 established by the State of Mississippi, shall be under the
20 management and control of a board of trustees to be known as the
21 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the
22 members thereof to be appointed by the Governor of the state with
23 the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall appoint
24 only men and women as such members as shall be qualified electors
25 residing in the district from which each is appointed, and at
26 least twenty-five (25) years of age, and of the highest order of
27 intelligence, character, learning and fitness for the performance
28 of such duties, to the end that such board shall perform the high



29 and honorable duties thereof to the greatest advantage of the
30 people of the state of such educational institutions, uninfluenced
31 by any political considerations. Each member must hold a
32 baccalaureate degree from a university. Each of the eight (8)
33 universities shall have at least one (1) alumnus on the board.
34 There shall be appointed one (1) member of such board from each
35 congressional district of the state as now existing and one (1)
36 member from each Supreme Court district, and two (2) members shall
37 be appointed from the state at large. The term of office of said
38 trustees herein provided for shall begin May 8, 1944; and it shall
39 be the duty of the Governor to make such appointments during the
40 regular session of the Legislature of Mississippi in 1944; and
41 one-third (1/3) of the membership of said board shall be appointed
42 for a period of four (4) years; one-third (1/3) for a period of
43 eight (8) years; and one-third (1/3) for a period of twelve (12)
44 years; and thereafter their successors shall hold office for a
45 period of twelve (12) years. The members of the board of trustees
46 as constituted at the time this amendment shall be inserted in the
47 Constitution as a part thereof shall continue to hold office until
48 their respective terms expire under existing law, after which time
49 the membership of the board shall consist of the number
50 hereinabove provided for. In case of a vacancy on said board by
51 death or resignation of a member, or from any other cause than the
52 expiration of such member's term of office, the board shall elect
53 his successor, who shall hold office until the end of the next
54 session of the Legislature. During such term of the session of
55 the Legislature the Governor shall appoint the successor member of
56 the board from the district from which his predecessor was
57 appointed, to hold office until the end of the period for which
58 such original trustee was appointed, to the end that one-third
59 (1/3) of such trustees' terms will expire each four (4) years.



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

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

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

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

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
81 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
82 amendment requires each member of the twelve-member Board of
83 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning have a college
84 degree and requires that each of the eight universalities have at
85 least one alumnus on the board."

