

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Constitution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 549

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
2 254, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE  
3 LEGISLATURE.

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

8 Amend Section 254, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
9 as follows:

10 Section 254. The Legislature shall at its regular session in  
11 the second year following the \* \* \* decennial census and every ten  
12 (10) years thereafter, and may, at any other time, by joint  
13 resolution, by majority vote of all members of each house,  
14 apportion the state in accordance with the Constitution of the  
15 state and of the United States into consecutively numbered  
16 senatorial and representative districts of contiguous territory.  
17 The Senate shall consist of \* \* \* thirty (30) Senators, and the  
18 House of Representatives shall consist of \* \* \* sixty (60)  
19 Representatives \* \* \*.

20 Should the Legislature adjourn, without apportioning itself  
21 as required hereby, the Governor by proclamation shall reconvene  
22 the Legislature within thirty (30) days in special apportionment  
23 session which shall not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days,  
24 during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall  
25 be the mandatory duty of the Legislature to adopt a joint  
26 resolution of apportionment. Should a special apportionment  
27 session not adopt a joint resolution of apportionment as required



28 hereby, a five-member commission consisting of the Chief Justice  
29 of the Supreme Court as chairman, the Attorney General, the  
30 Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
31 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall immediately  
32 convene and within one hundred eighty (180) days of the  
33 adjournment of such special apportionment session apportion the  
34 Legislature, which apportionment shall be final upon filing with  
35 the office of the Secretary of State. Each apportionment shall be  
36 effective for the next regularly scheduled elections of members of  
37 the Legislature.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be  
39 submitted to the qualified electors at an election to be held on  
40 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2002, as  
41 provided by Section 273 of the Constitution and by law.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment  
43 for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed amendment  
44 reduces the size of the Legislature. The Senate is reduced from  
45 52 members to 30 members. The House of Representatives is reduced  
46 from 122 members to 60 members."

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the  
48 State of Mississippi shall submit this resolution, immediately  
49 upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney General of the  
50 United States or to the United States District Court for the  
51 District of Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of the  
52 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

