

By: Representative Gibbs (72nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 15

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO REDESIGN THE MISSISSIPPI
 2 STATE FLAG; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND TO
 3 PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
 4 REDESIGNED MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL
 5 NOT INCLUDE THE DESIGN OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG; TO PROVIDE
 6 THAT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE PRESENTED TO
 7 THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ON OR
 8 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Commission to
 11 Redesign the Mississippi State Flag (commission) with the sole
 12 purpose of developing, designing and reporting to the Governor and
 13 the Legislature a new design for the official Mississippi State
 14 Flag on or before January 1, 2020. The new Mississippi State Flag
 15 adopted by the commission shall not include the design of the
 16 Confederate Battle Flag. The commission is charged with a
 17 sensitive and responsible task that it shall conduct in an
 18 objective manner. The redesigned Mississippi State Flag shall
 19 honor the past while embracing the promise of the future.

20 (2) The Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag
 21 shall consist of eleven (11) members, to be appointed as follows:



- 22 (a) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of
23 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 24 (b) Two (2) members of the Mississippi Senate appointed
25 by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 26 (c) Seven (7) members appointed by the Governor, to
27 include:
- 28 (i) A representative from the Mississippi Economic
29 Council;
- 30 (ii) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
31 Commission;
- 32 (iii) Two (2) representatives from the Board of
33 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History;
- 34 (iv) A representative from business and industry;
35 and
- 36 (v) Two (2) members from the state at large, who
37 shall be persons who are college students under twenty-five (25)
38 years of age.

39 All appointments shall be made not later than sixty (60) days
40 after the effective date of this act. The chair of the commission
41 shall be appointed by the Governor from the members of the
42 commission. The commission shall meet as soon as practicable
43 after appointments have been made upon the call of the chairman,
44 and shall organize for business. A quorum of the appointed
45 membership of the commission shall be required for the adoption of
46 any reports and recommendations. The Mississippi Department of



47 Archives and History shall provide meeting space and clerical
48 support for the operation of the commission.

49 (3) The Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag
50 shall have the following functions and duties:

51 (a) To hold regular, public meetings when and where it
52 sees fit;

53 (b) To receive written, public comment, in a manner it
54 sees fit, and to hold public hearings, under the terms and
55 conditions it determines and sees fit;

56 (c) To collect, examine and consider all information
57 which it determines may be helpful in making a recommendation on
58 the use and adoption of Mississippi's State Flag, including, but
59 not limited to, the positive and negative economic effects on the
60 state of having the current design for the Mississippi State Flag;

61 (d) To consult with historical experts, social science
62 experts, representatives of organizations and associations, and
63 others, as it sees fit, whose knowledge or expertise may assist
64 the commission in making its recommendation;

65 (e) To make any inquiries and conduct any business that
66 may assist the commission in submitting a design for a state flag;
67 however, the new Mississippi State Flag adopted by the commission
68 shall not include the design of the Confederate Battle Flag;

69 (f) Keep minutes of its meetings, and make those
70 minutes available to the public; and



71 (g) To make a written recommendation for a new design
72 for the official Mississippi State Flag and an oral presentation
73 to the members of the Legislature in a joint session of the
74 Legislature held on or before January 15, 2020.

75 (4) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
76 for service on the commission but may receive reimbursement for
77 mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, to the
78 extent funds are available for that purpose.

79 (5) The state flag currently in use shall remain in use
80 until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the
81 report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to
82 act.

83 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after its passage.

