

By: Representative Paden

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 218

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO SELECT THE DESIGN FOR A NEW
 2 MISSISSIPPI FLAG; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE MEETINGS
 3 OF THE COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE EACH PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND EACH
 4 PUBLIC COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE TO SUBMIT ONE DESIGN FOR A NEW
 5 MISSISSIPPI FLAG TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS CONSIDERATION; TO
 6 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG THE SUBMITTED
 7 DESIGNS THE ONE THAT BEST REFLECTS BOTH THE HISTORY OF THE STATE
 8 OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE DIVERSITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATE;
 9 TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
 10 FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2020, THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF THE STATE OF
 11 MISSISSIPPI SHALL HAVE THE DESIGN THAT WAS SELECTED BY THE
 12 COMMISSION UNDER THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established a commission to select
 15 the design for a new Mississippi flag that will reflect both the
 16 history of the State of Mississippi and the diversity of the
 17 population of the state.

18 (2) The commission shall consist of the following thirteen
 19 (13) members:

20 (a) Five (5) members appointed by the Governor, with
 21 one (1) member to be appointed from each congressional district as
 22 constituted on January 1, 2019, and one (1) member to be appointed
 23 from the state at large;



24 (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Mississippi
25 Senate;

26 (c) The Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of
27 Representatives;

28 (d) Three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant
29 Governor of the State of Mississippi as follows:

30 (i) A member of the Mississippi Senate; and

31 (ii) Two (2) members of the general public; and

32 (e) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the
33 Mississippi House of Representatives as follows:

34 (i) One (1) member of the Mississippi House of
35 Representatives; and

36 (ii) Two (2) members of the general public.

37 (3) The appointments shall be made not later than forty-five
38 (45) days after the effective date of this act. Within fifteen
39 (15) days thereafter, on a day to be designated jointly by the
40 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House,
41 the commission shall meet and organize by selecting from its
42 membership a chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman also
43 shall serve as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all
44 records of the commission. The commission shall meet no more than
45 once per month. A majority of the members of the commission shall
46 constitute a quorum at all meetings. An affirmative vote of a
47 majority of the members present and voting shall be required in
48 the adoption of any actions taken by the commission. All members



49 shall be notified in writing of all regular and special meetings
50 of the commission, which notices shall be mailed at least ten (10)
51 days before the dates of the meetings. All meetings shall take
52 place at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi.

53 (4) Members of the commission shall not receive
54 compensation. However, each member may be paid travel expenses
55 and meals and lodging expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, for
56 such expenses incurred in furtherance of their duties. Travel
57 expenses and meals and lodging expenses and other necessary
58 expenses incurred by the commission shall be paid out of funds
59 appropriated to the Governor's Office.

60 (5) In carrying out the provisions of this act, the
61 commission may use the services, facilities and personnel of all
62 departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state.

63 (6) Each public university and each public community or
64 junior college in the state may submit one (1) design for a new
65 Mississippi flag, which design has been selected in accordance
66 with the process determined by each respective university or
67 community or junior college, to the commission for its
68 consideration. All designs that will be considered by the
69 commission must be submitted to the commission not later than
70 October 15, 2019.

71 (7) After carefully reviewing all of the designs that were
72 submitted under subsection (5) of this section, the commission
73 shall select from among the submitted designs the one (1) that, in



74 its judgment, best reflects both the history of the State of
75 Mississippi and the diversity of the population of the state. The
76 commission shall file its selection of the design of the new
77 Mississippi flag with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of
78 the House not later than January 1, 2020. The commission shall be
79 dissolved once its selection of the design has been filed.

80 **SECTION 2.** Section 3-3-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
81 amended as follows:

82 3-3-16. From and after January 1, 2020, the official flag of
83 the State of Mississippi shall have the * * * design * * * that
84 was selected by the commission established under Section 1 of this
85 act.

86 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after its passage.

