

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE  
**JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE**

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**JOINT CONVENTION**

1. The Senate and the House may meet in joint convention by concurrent resolution duly adopted by both houses. Such resolution shall state the day, hour and location of such joint convention and the order of business for which it is called.

2. All joint conventions of the two (2) houses shall be in the hall of the House of Representatives, unless another location is specified in the concurrent resolution, and in elections the members shall vote viva voce, and in all cases a majority of the votes of those present and voting shall be requisite to constitute an election.

Only senators and members of the House of Representatives shall be permitted on the floor of the House during joint meetings except for the newspaper, radio, and television reporters and necessary Senate and House personnel and others as may be directed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. During joint meetings, preference to gallery seats shall be given to elected state officials and families of the legislators.

3. When the two (2) houses have met in joint convention, the Speaker of the House shall call the joint convention to order and shall then turn the gavel over to the President of the Senate who shall preside, and all questions of order shall be decided by the latter, subject to an appeal to the joint convention as one (1) body. In the absence of the President of the Senate, the Speaker shall preside and perform all the duties herein provided for.

4. A call of either house may be had in joint convention by majority vote of the House for which the call is desired.

5. In a joint convention a member shall not speak longer than five (5) minutes. Any extension of time shall be specific.

6. A motion to adjourn, or to postpone the business of a joint convention shall be decided on a majority vote of those present and voting, acting as one (1) body. Upon demand of one-tenth (1/10) of the combined membership, the yeas and nays shall be taken on any matter under consideration by the joint convention, and such yeas and nays shall be entered upon the journals of both houses.

7. Upon questions arising during a joint convention, requiring the separate decision of either or both houses, the decision of the House shall be first made, then the decision of the Senate. A question for call of either house shall not come within the scope of this rule.

8. On all questions of order or parliamentary procedure not in conflict with these joint rules, the rules of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi, insofar as applicable, shall be the authority.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

9. The style of all laws shall be: "BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:" which shall be typed immediately preceding Section 1 of a bill. No other enacting word, such as "Be it further enacted," shall be used in any bill.

9A. (1) In a bill or other measure proposing an amendment to a code section or other provision of law, or in a resolution proposing an amendment to a constitutional provision, a change to an existing code section, other provision of law or constitutional provision shall be indicated as follows:

(a) New language that is being added shall be underlined.

(b) Existing language that is being deleted shall be denoted by the insertion of three (3) asterisk symbols; however, the text of the deleted language shall be available on the official website of the Mississippi State Legislature, by means of displaying all of the deleted language within a document pursuant to the selection of that display option by the user.

(2) The provisions of this rule shall not apply to handwritten amendments that are proposed or adopted by members while the bill, measure or resolution is under consideration by either house.

10. While bills, resolutions and messages are on their passage between the two (2) houses, they shall be under the signature of the Secretary or Clerk, respectively, as the case may be.

11. When a bill or resolution which shall have passed one (1) house has been postponed to a day so distant that it will not be taken up again at the current session, indefinitely postponed, or rejected, by a vote of the other house, information thereof shall be given by message immediately to the house in which the same shall have passed.

12. When a bill or resolution, which has passed one (1) house is rejected in the other, by a vote of that house, it shall not again be introduced during the same session, except on three (3) days' notice and on two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting in the house in which it was rejected.

13. Each house shall transmit to the other all papers on which any bill or resolution may be founded.

14. Each house shall have the liberty of ordering the printing of bills, messages and reports, without the consent of the other.

15. Bills or resolutions transmitted to either the Senate or House by the other before the constitutional time has expired for entering a motion to reconsider may be recalled by message upon proper entering of a motion to reconsider.

16. Whenever any message, bill, resolution, report or document shall be ordered to be printed by the Senate or House, for use of both houses, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House, as the case may be, immediately to report the fact of the passage of that order to the other branch of the Legislature together with the number so ordered to be printed. Payment thereof shall be made from the contingent funds of each house in the proportion ordered by each house.

17. No new bill shall be introduced into either house during the last three (3) days of the session.

18. All general bills modifying, adding, deleting or repealing language, or a repealer on language, that provides for the levying of taxes, borrowing of money, issuing bonds, notes, or other evidence of debt, that provides for fees or imposing the issuance of licenses, of whatever kind by the state or any subdivisions thereof, or that provides the exemption of property from state taxes or taxes of any subdivisions thereof, shall be considered as revenue bills, and no revenue bills, or conference committee report thereon, or concurrence in amendments adopted by the other house shall be passed or adopted by either the Senate or the House except by a vote of at least three-fifths (3/5) of the members of the Senate and House, respectively, present and voting.

19. Appropriation and revenue bills shall have precedence in each house, over all other business, and no such bill shall be passed during the last five (5) days of a regular session.

20. Every bill and concurrent resolution, the purpose or effect of which is to expend any state funds or enable the spending of any state funds or to increase or decrease the revenue of the state, either directly or indirectly, shall have attached to it at the time of its being reported by any committee of either house of the Legislature a brief explanatory statement or note which shall include a reliable estimate of the anticipated change in state expenditures or revenues under its provisions. These statements or notes shall be known as fiscal notes. They shall be attached to the original of each proposed bill or resolution but shall be separate therefrom, shall be clearly designated as a fiscal note, and shall not constitute a part of the law proposed by the bill or resolution.

The author of each bill or any committee considering same shall present a copy of the bill or resolution, with his or her request for a fiscal note, to either the Legislative Budget Office, the Department of Finance and Administration, the Department of Revenue, the State Auditor, the state agency with which the bill or resolution is concerned, the state agency having jurisdiction over the subject of the bill or resolution, the Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review, or the Legislative Reference Bureau. The fiscal note shall be prepared by the commission or agency and furnished to the author of the bill or committee considering same within seven (7) days after the request is made. If the author of, or committee considering, the bill disagrees with the findings of the agency or agencies, then the author or committee may also attach and furnish a fiscal note, based upon his, her or its information, research, study and belief which shall then be incorporated in and become a part of the fiscal note. If the appropriate agency does not furnish a fiscal note, after seven (7) days' request, then the author or committee may furnish the fiscal note, based upon his, her or its information, research, study and belief. If, after careful investigation, it is determined that no dollar estimate is possible, the note shall contain a statement to that effect, setting forth the reasons why no dollar estimate can be

given. No comment or opinion shall be included in the fiscal note with regard to the merit, or lack thereof, of the measure for which the note is prepared.

Whenever the author of any measure or the committee considering same is of the opinion that no fiscal note is necessary and the measure is considered by either house of the Legislature without a fiscal note, any member of either house may thereafter request a fiscal note be obtained, and in such case the matter shall be decided by majority vote of those present and voting in the house of which he or she is a member.

This rule shall not apply to general appropriation bills, conference reports and local and private bills.

20A. (1) For the purpose of this rule:

(a) "State support funds" means funds in the State General Fund and all state support special funds, which are funds in the Budget Contingency Fund, the Education Enhancement Fund, the Health Care Expendable Fund, the Tobacco Control Program Fund, and any other special funds that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) determines to be state support special funds.

(b) "House" means either house of the Legislature, unless it is clear from the context that it is referring to the House of Representatives.

(2) (a) When an amendment is offered to an appropriation bill on the floor of either house that would increase the amount of state support funds authorized for expenditure by the state agency, official or program being funded in that appropriation bill, the amendment must also include a reduction in the amount of state support funds for one (1) or more other state agencies, officials or programs by a total amount that equals the amount of the increase in the amendment.

(b) The other appropriation bill or bills in which the reductions are to be made do not have to be designated by bill number or line numbers in the amendment if they are described sufficiently enough to be identified, but the amounts by which they are to be reduced must be specific for each bill in which the reduction is to be made.

(c) The reductions required to be made by this rule must be made in an appropriation bill or bills that are still in the house or in an appropriation bill or bills from the other house that will be considered in the house later in the session. After a bill has passed in the house and been released to the other house, none of the reductions required by this rule may be made in that bill.

(3) If such an amendment is adopted, the amendment shall be considered to be an amendment to the other bill or bills in which the reductions are to be made as well as to the bill in which the increase is made. Therefore, no additional vote shall be required on the amendment making the reductions in the bill or bills when that bill or bills are under consideration by the house. The manner by which the reduction is made shall be a separate amendment to the bill that is designated as an amendment by the house, rather than an amendment by the Appropriations Committee or by an individual member.

(4) (a) When a bill in which the reduction is to be made comes before the house for consideration, the reduction shall be made to the total sum of state support funds authorized to be expended in the bill before the bill is voted on by the house.

(b) If a bill in which the reduction is to be made has already been considered by the house, the reduction shall be made to the total sum of state support funds authorized to be expended in the bill before the bill is released to the other house.

(5) No appropriation bill that authorizes the expenditure of any state support funds for the next fiscal year may be released to the other house until all of the appropriation bills originating in the house or all of the appropriation bills originating in the other house, as the case may be, that authorize the expenditure of any state support funds for the next fiscal year have been passed by the house.

(6) If any statute or rule of either house of the Legislature conflicts with the provisions of this rule, the provisions of this rule shall supersede the conflicting statute or rule to the extent of the conflict.

## CONFERENCE

21. When a bill or resolution is returned by either house to the other with amendments, and the house where the bill or resolution originated declined to concur in the amendments, a conference, by a majority vote of those present and voting, may be requested. Such action shall be transmitted by message in which shall be included the names of the conferees on the part of the requesting house. Upon receipt of such message, the other house may, in like manner, grant such conference notifying the requesting house by message and stating the names of the conferees.

22. A conference committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House and three (3) members of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate respectively.

23. Conference committees shall meet as soon as practicable and proceed to confer on the differences between the two (2) houses, seeking to resolve such differences. The conference committee shall report in writing. Such report shall be signed by a majority of the conference committee members appointed from the House and a majority of the conference committee members appointed from the Senate. The report shall be submitted to both houses, and six (6) copies of each report shall be prepared.

23A. (1) All official meetings of any conference committee on a bill or on a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment shall be open to the public at all times, unless declared an executive session in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-41-7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(2) The chairman of each Senate and House committee to which such a measure is first referred shall designate one (1), two (2) or three (3) rooms in which official meetings of the conference committees pertaining to such measures shall be held. For the first session of a new term, the designation of the rooms shall be announced within three (3) legislative days after adoption of these joint rules. For all other sessions, the designation of the rooms shall be announced not later than the third legislative day of each session. Copies of a list of these rooms shall be available in the respective offices of the committee chairmen. This announcement shall constitute notice of the place of the official meetings of conference committees, and notice that the time of each meeting shall not be announced individually. If a conference committee meets in a location other than a designated room, a written notice giving the location of the meeting shall be placed in a conspicuous place in one (1) of the designated rooms.

(3) Proper decorum during any official meeting of a conference committee requires that the committee's deliberation be directly related to the committee's primary purpose of resolving the differences between the two (2) houses that pertain to a specific measure. Therefore, the following shall not be allowed during any official meeting of a conference committee:

(a) The use of a cell phone by a conferee or other person in the room in which the conference committee meeting is being conducted;

(b) Any oral, written or electronic communication between a conferee and another person who is not a legislator or legislative staff member, except that a conferee may request that any person at the meeting meet with the conferee outside the room, and any conferee may request a person who is not a member of the conference committee, upon approval of a majority of the members of the committee present, to address the committee in the room.

(4) If any statute or rule of either house of the Legislature conflicts with the provisions of this rule, the provisions of this rule shall supersede the conflicting statute or rule to the extent of the conflict.

24. Only matters in disagreement between the two (2) houses are subject to consideration by conference committee. However, when one (1) house strikes out of a bill all after the enacting clause and inserts new text as an amendment thereto, the conferees may disregard the text of the original bill and of the amendment and may exercise wide discretion in the incorporation of germane new text.

25. When a conference report is considered by the house of origin and it contains an amendment by the other house which adds code sections not included in the bill as passed the house of origin, a point of order that the conference report is not in order shall be sustained and the bill shall be returned to conference.

When a conference report is considered and it contains code sections not included in the bill as passed the house of origin or in an amendment by the other house, a point of order that the conference report is not in order shall be sustained in either house and the bill shall be returned to conference.

26. In the event of the failure of either house to adopt the conference report, or to concur in amendments, the bill or resolution under such consideration shall be lost.

27. All conference reports, and concurrence in amendments adopted by the other house shall require for adoption the same vote as is required for the passage of the bill, resolution or measure under consideration, and shall be on roll call duly entered and recorded in the journal of the house voting thereon.

27A. A conference report that has been adopted by both houses may be amended by a concurrent resolution authored by the chair of the first-named committee of referral in either house and adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting in each house, unless a higher number of votes is required by Section 64, 66, 253 or 273 of the Mississippi Constitution.

27B. If a conference report containing a reverse repealer is adopted by both houses, the reverse repealer shall be removed administratively by the applicable Legislative Services Office.

28. No bill making an appropriation from, or authorizing the expenditure of money from, any special fund in the State Treasury shall be passed except by the votes of a majority of all the members elected to each house of the Legislature.

29. A motion to reconsider the vote whereby a conference report is adopted or rejected is in order in either house from the time of such adoption or rejection in one (1) house until the end of the session of the next legislative day after notice of disposition by rejection, recommittal to the same conference committee or appointment of a new conference committee by the other house. The provisions of this rule shall supersede any Senate or House rule which may be in conflict herewith.

### **ENROLLED BILLS**

30. When a bill or resolution shall have passed both houses it shall be enrolled, and the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall certify on the margin of the enrolled bill the fact that it originated in his or her house. The enrolled bill may be examined by the Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills, and carefully compared by the committee with the engrossed bill and all typographical errors, if any, corrected; and the committee shall forthwith report in writing to each house, and the report shall be entered in the journals of both houses. The reports shall be signed by the chairman or acting chairman of the Enrolled Bills Committee on the part of each house.

31. After the Committee on Enrolled Bills has reported a bill or resolution duly enrolled, it shall be signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and by the President of the Senate during the legislative session in which the bill or resolution was passed.

32. After a bill shall have been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, it shall be presented by the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House, as the case may be, to the Governor for his or her approval. The Secretary or Clerk shall report the day of presentation to the Governor, which time shall be carefully entered on the journals of each house.

33. All Senate and House concurrent resolutions and memorials, which are not to be presented to the Governor, shall be enrolled, signed and delivered to the Secretary of State.

### **JOINT COMMITTEES**

34. The following joint committees shall be appointed:

- (a) Committee on Executive Contingent Fund, to consist of five (5) senators and five (5) representatives.
- (b) Committee on State Library, to consist of five (5) senators and five (5) representatives.
- (c) Committee on Enrolled Bills, to consist of five (5) senators and five (5) representatives.

(d) Committee to Investigate State Offices or Departments, nine (9) on the part of the Senate and nine (9) on the part of the House; the committee shall meet and apportion the labor of such investigation amongst subcommittees and shall report the result of each investigation to the two (2) houses.

(e) A chairman and vice chairman for the Senate members on each of the above committees shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and a chairman and vice chairman for the House members on each committee shall be appointed by the Speaker. A chairman and vice chairman for each of the above committees shall be elected by the respective committees in joint session; however, both the chairman and the vice chairman shall not come from the same house.

### MESSAGES

35. When a message shall be sent from one (1) house to the other, such message shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, respectively, as the case may be. A receipt shall be signed for each message so delivered.

36. (Omitted)

37. (Omitted)

### LOCAL AND PRIVATE LEGISLATION

38. In addition to observing the injunctions and prohibitions set out in the Constitution of the State of Mississippi, the Senate and the House Committees on Local and Private Legislation shall observe and adhere to the following additional rules and requirements in the consideration of local and private Senate and House bills:

(a) Require that local and private bills, originating in either the Senate or the House, and granting power to any governing authority to perform any official act shall be accompanied by an order or resolution setting out the reasons therefor, duly certified as being a part of the official minutes of that authority. In the event more than one (1) official authority is involved, such certified order or resolution shall be made for each of them.

(b) Require that any bill providing for the transfer of funds shall be accompanied by a certified order or resolution as provided in paragraph (a) of this rule. Such order or resolution shall state whether or not funds proposed to be transferred are pledged for the payment of any outstanding bonds or notes for which there is not already a sufficient surplus accumulated.

(c) Require that any such bills providing for the payment of any claims shall be accompanied by a certified order or resolution as provided in paragraph (a) of this rule, setting out the name of claimants, the nature, amount and reasons for justification of the claim and that with proper authority such claim would be paid.

(d) Require that there shall accompany any bill proposing the issuance of bonds, a certificate from the governing authorities stating that the issuance of such proposed bonds, when added to the present bonded indebtedness of such county, or subdivision thereof, municipality or district, will not exceed any limitation now imposed by law.

### JOINT MEETING OF APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

39. When the chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees consider it desirable and possible, their subcommittees may meet jointly to hear testimony and question the heads of a department or agency on their budgetary needs for the next fiscal year.

#### 40. TIMETABLE FOR PROCESSING LEGISLATION

90-day      2024 Regular  
Session      Session

9th day      44th day      Deadline for making requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted.\*\*\*

14th day	49th day	Deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments.*
29th day	64th day	Deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house.*+
38th day	73rd day	Deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house.*
39th day	74th day	Deadline for reconsideration and passage of general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house.*
42nd day	77th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house.*
49th day	84th day	Deadline for making requests for appropriation and revenue bills to be drafted.#
51st day	86th day	Deadline for original floor action on appropriation and revenue bills originating in own house.
52nd day	87th day	Deadline for reconsideration and passage of appropriation and revenue bills originating in own house.
53rd day	88th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider appropriation and revenue bills originating in own house.
57th day	92nd day	Deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house.*+
65th day	100th day	Deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house.*
66th day	101st day	Deadline for reconsideration and passage of general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house.*
67th day	102nd day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house.*
71st day	106th day	Deadline for original floor action on appropriation and revenue bills originating in other house.
72nd day	107th day	Deadline for reconsideration and passage of appropriation and revenue bills originating in other house.
73rd day	108th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider appropriation and revenue bills originating in other house.
74th day	109th day	Deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to appropriation and revenue bills; and deadline for introduction of local and private bills that are revenue bills.
77th day	112th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider concurrence or nonconcurrence in appropriation and revenue bills.
80th day	115th day	Deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to general bills and constitutional amendments.
81st day	116th day	Deadline for introduction of local and private bills that are not revenue bills.

82nd day	117th day	Deadline for conference reports on appropriation and revenue bills to be filed; and deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider concurrence or nonconcurrence on general bills and constitutional amendments.**+
84th day	119th day	Deadline for final adoption of conference reports on appropriation and revenue bills; and deadline for conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments to be filed.**+
85th day	120th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider conference reports on appropriation and revenue bills.
86th day	121st day	Deadline for first consideration of conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments.
87th day	122nd day	Deadline for filing conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments that had been recommitted for further conference.+
88th day	123rd day	Deadline for adoption of conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments after recommittal.
89th day	124th day	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments.
90th day	125th day	Sine die.

\*Appropriation, revenue, and local and private bills, and bills to restore suffrage are excluded from these deadlines. For purposes of the deadlines herein set forth, the term "revenue bills" shall include only those bills whose primary purpose is to increase or decrease taxes or to authorize the issuance of bonds or the borrowing of money. Bills which are primarily for regulatory purposes which have revenue provisions included shall not be considered as revenue bills for deadline purposes. The deletion from a bill of the features which made it a revenue bill shall render the bill a general bill for deadline purposes.

\*\*Conference reports on all bills must be filed with the Secretary/Clerk no later than the time of adjournment on the day prior to being called up and considered. Appropriation bills which actually appropriate money and are recommitted for further conference are excluded from the requirement that the subsequent conference report be filed and lay on table one (1) day before being considered; however, original action must be taken on all appropriation conference reports by 2:00 p.m. on the 84th/119th day and subsequent reports must be filed no later than 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted must be made no later than 6:00 p.m. on the 9th/44th day. The Rules Committee of the House or Senate, as the case may be, may authorize any member of its respective house to make requests, for one or more general bills or constitutional amendments to be drafted, after the expiration of the deadline for making such drafting requests but before the deadline for introduction of bills and constitutional amendments, upon a determination by the Rules Committee that such drafting requests are in response to conditions of an emergency nature arising subsequent to the deadline for making requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted.

+Committee reports and conference reports that are subject to being filed on these deadlines must be filed with the Secretary/Clerk no later than 8:00 p.m.

#Requests for appropriation and revenue bills to be drafted must be made no later than 6:00 p.m.

Whenever the word "day" appears in this rule, it shall mean calendar day.

The above schedule shall not be deviated from except by the passage of a concurrent resolution adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the House and Senate present and voting.



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**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS  
AFFECTING  
THE LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATION**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Section 54. A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a less number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each shall provide.

Section 55. Each house may determine rules of its own proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, expel a member; but no member, unless expelled for theft, bribery or corruption, shall be expelled the second time for the same offense. Both houses shall, from time to time, publish journals of their proceedings, except such parts as may, in their opinion, require secrecy; and the yeas and nays on any question shall be entered on the Journal, at the request of one-tenth (1/10) of the members present; and the yeas and nays shall be entered on the Journal on the final passage of every bill.

Section 56. The style of the laws of the State shall be: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi."

Section 57. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three (3) days, nor to any other place than that in which the two (2) houses shall be sitting.

Section 58. The doors of each house, when in session, or in Committee of the Whole, shall be kept open, except in cases which may require secrecy; and each house may punish, by fine and imprisonment any person not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect to the house by any disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence, or who shall in any way disturb its deliberations during the session; but such imprisonment shall not extend beyond the final adjournment of that session.

Section 59. Bills may originate in either house, and be amended or rejected in the other, and every bill shall be read by its title on three (3) different days in each house, unless two-thirds (2/3) of the house where the same is pending shall dispense with the rules; and every bill shall be read in full immediately before the vote on its final passage upon the demand of any member; and every bill, having passed both houses, shall be signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives during the legislative session.

Section 60. No bill shall be so amended in its passage through either house as to change its original purpose; and no law shall be passed except by bill; but orders, votes, and resolutions of both houses, affecting the prerogatives and duties thereof, or relating to adjournment, to amendments to the Constitution, to the investigation of public officers, and the like, shall not require the signature of the Governor; and such resolutions, orders and votes may empower legislative committees to administer oaths, to send for persons and papers, and generally make legislative investigations effective.

Section 61. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its title only, but the section or sections, as amended or revived, shall be inserted at length.

Section 62. No amendment to bills by one (1) house shall be concurred in by the other, except by a vote of the majority thereof, taken by yeas and nays and the names of those voting for and against recorded upon the journals; and reports of committees of conference shall in like manner be adopted in each house.

Section 63. No appropriation bill shall be passed by the Legislature which does not fix definitely the maximum sum thereby authorized to be drawn from the Treasury.

Section 64. No bill passed after the adoption of this Constitution to make appropriations of money out of the State Treasury shall continue in force more than two (2) months after the expiration of the fiscal year ending after the meeting of the Legislature at its next regular session; nor shall such bill be passed except by the votes of a majority of all members elected to each house of the Legislature.

Section 65. All votes on the final passage of any measure shall be subject to reconsideration for at least one (1) whole legislative day, and no motion to reconsider such vote shall be disposed of adversely on the day on which the original vote was taken, except on the last day of the session.

Section 66. No law granting a donation or gratuity in favor of any person or object shall be enacted except by the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the members-elect of each branch of the Legislature, nor by any vote for a sectarian purpose or use.

Section 67. No new bill shall be introduced into either house of the Legislature during the last three (3) days of the session.

Section 68. Appropriation and revenue bills shall, at regular sessions of the Legislature, have precedence in both houses over all other business, and no such bills shall be passed during the last five (5) days of the session.

Section 69. General appropriation bills shall contain only the appropriations to defray the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the government; to pay interest on state bonds and to support the common schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each embracing but one (1) subject. Legislation shall not be engrafted on appropriation bills, but the same may prescribe the conditions on which the money may be drawn, and for what purposes paid.

Section 70. No revenue bill, or any bill providing for assessment of property for taxation, shall become a law except by a vote of at least three-fifths (3/5) of the members of each house present and voting.

Section 71. Every bill introduced into the Legislature shall have a title, and the title ought to indicate clearly the subject-matter or matters of the proposed legislation. Each committee to which a bill may be referred shall express, in writing, its judgment of the sufficiency of the title of the bill and this, too, whether recommendation be that the bill do pass or do not pass.

Section 72. Every bill which shall pass both houses shall be presented to the Governor of the state. If he shall approve, he shall sign it; but if he does not approve, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it originated, which shall enter the objections at large upon its Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, with the objections, to the other house, by which, likewise, it shall be reconsidered; and if approved by two-thirds (2/3) of that house, it shall become a law; but in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the Journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within five (5) days (Sundays excepted) after it has been presented to him, it shall become law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Legislature, by adjournment, prevented its return, in which case such bill shall be a law unless the Governor shall veto it within fifteen (15) days (Sundays excepted) after it is presented to him, and such bill shall be returned to the Legislature, with his objections, within three (3) days after the beginning of the next session of the Legislature.

Section 73. The Governor may veto parts of any appropriation bill and approve parts of the same, and the portions approved shall be law.

Section 74. No bill shall become a law until it shall have been referred to a committee of each house and returned therefrom with a recommendation in writing.

Section 75. No law of a general nature, unless therein otherwise provided, shall be enforced until sixty (60) days after its passage.

Section 76. In all elections by the Legislature, members shall vote viva voce, and the votes shall be entered on the journals.

Section 77. The Governor shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies as may occur in either house of the Legislature, and the persons thereupon chosen shall hold their seats for the unexpired term.

**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

Section 129. The Lieutenant Governor shall, by virtue of his office, be President of the Senate. In Committee of the Whole he may debate all questions, and where there is an equal division in the Senate, or on a joint vote of both houses, he shall give the casting vote.

Section 139. The Legislature may empower the Governor to remove and appoint officers, in any county or counties or municipal corporations, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law.

Section 253. The Legislature may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both houses, of all members elected, restore the right of suffrage to any person disqualified by reason of crime; but the reasons therefor shall be spread upon the journals, and the vote shall be by yeas and nays.

**INJUNCTIONS**

Section 78. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to regulate by law the cases in which deductions shall be made from salaries of public officers for neglect of official duty, and the amount of said deductions.

Section 79. The Legislature shall provide by law for the sale of all delinquent tax lands. The courts shall apply the same liberal principles in favor of such titles as in sale by execution. The right of redemption from all sales of real estate, for the nonpayment of taxes or special assessments, of any and every character whatsoever, shall exist, on conditions to be prescribed by law, in favor of owners and persons interested in such real estate, for a period of not less than two (2) years.

Section 80. Provisions shall be made by general laws to prevent the abuse by cities, towns, and other municipal corporations of their powers of assessment, taxation, borrowing money, and contracting debts.

Section 81. The Legislature shall never authorize the permanent obstruction of any of the navigable waters of the state, but may provide for the removal of such obstructions as now exist, whenever the public welfare demands. This section shall not prevent the construction, under proper authority, of drawbridges for railroads, or other roads nor the construction of booms and chutes for logs, nor the construction, operation and maintenance of facilities incident to the exploration, production or transportation of oil, gas or other minerals, nor the construction, operation and maintenance of bridges and causeways in such manner as not to prevent the safe passage of vessels or logs under regulations to be provided by law.

Section 82. The Legislature shall fix the amount of the penalty of all official bonds, and may, as far as practicable, provide that the whole or a part of the security required for the faithful discharge of official duty shall be made by some guaranty company or companies.

Section 83. The Legislature shall enact laws to secure the safety of persons from fires in hotels, theatres, and other public places of resort.

Section 84. The Legislature shall enact laws to limit, restrict, or prevent the acquiring and holding of land in the state by nonresident aliens, and may limit or restrict the acquiring or holding of lands by corporations.

Section 85. The Legislature shall provide by general law for the working of public roads by contract or by county prisoners, or both. Such law may be put in operation only by a vote of the board of supervisors in those counties where it may be desirable.

Section 86. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide by law for the treatment and care of the insane; and the Legislature may provide for the care of the indigent sick in hospitals in the state.

**LOCAL LEGISLATION**

Section 87. No special or local law shall be enacted for the benefit of individuals or corporations, in cases which are or can be provided for by the general law, or where the relief sought can be given by any court of this state; nor shall the operation of any general law be suspended by the Legislature for the benefit of any individual or private corporation

or association, and in all cases where a general law can be made applicable, and would be advantageous, no special law shall be enacted.

Section 88. The Legislature shall pass general laws, under which local and private interests shall be provided for and protected, and under which cities and towns may be chartered and their charters amended, and under which corporations may be created, organized, and their acts of incorporation altered; and all such laws shall be subject to repeal or amendment.

Section 89. There shall be appointed in each house of the Legislature a standing committee on Local and Private Legislation; the House committee to consist of seven (7) representatives and the Senate committee of five (5) senators. No local or private bill shall be passed by either house until it shall have been referred to said committee thereof and shall have been reported back with a recommendation in writing that it do pass, stating affirmatively the reasons therefor, and why the end to be accomplished should not be reached by general law, or by a proceeding in court; or if the recommendation of the committee be that the bill do not pass, then it shall not pass the house to which it is so reported unless it be voted for by a majority of all the members elected thereto. If a bill is passed in conformity to the requirements hereof, other than such as prohibited in the next section, the courts shall not, because of its local, special or private nature refuse to enforce it.

Section 90. The Legislature shall not pass local, private or special laws in any of the following enumerated cases, but such matters shall be provided for only by general laws, viz:

- (a) Granting divorces;
- (b) Changing the names of persons, places or corporations;
- (c) Providing for change of venue in civil and criminal cases;
- (d) Regulating the rate of interest on money;
- (e) Concerning the settlement or administration of any estate, or the sale or mortgage of any property, of any infant, or of a person of unsound mind, or of any deceased person;
- (f) The removal of the disability of infancy;
- (g) Granting to any person, corporation or association the right to have any ferry, bridge, road or fish-trap;
- (h) Exemption of property from taxation or from levy or sale;
- (i) Providing for the adoption or legitimation of children;
- (j) Changing the law of descent and distribution;
- (k) Exempting any person from jury, road or other civil duty (and no person shall be exempted therefrom by force of any local or private law);
- (l) Laying out, opening, altering and working roads and highways;
- (m) Vacating any road or highway, town plat, alley or public grounds;
- (n) Selecting, drawing, summoning, or empaneling grand or petit juries;
- (o) Creating, increasing or decreasing the fees, salary or emoluments of any public officer;
- (p) Providing for the management or support of any private or common school, incorporating the same or granting such school any privileges;

**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

- (q) Relating to stock laws, water-courses and fences;
- (r) Conferring the power to exercise the right of eminent domain, or granting to any person, corporation, or association the right to lay down railroad tracks or street car tracks in any other manner than that prescribed by general law;
- (s) Regulating the practice in courts of justice;
- (t) Providing for the creation of districts for the election of justices of the peace and constables; and
- (u) Granting any lands under control of the state to any person or corporation.

**CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS**

Section 91. The Legislature shall not enact any law for one or more counties, not applicable to all the counties in the state, increasing the uniform charge for the registration of deeds, or regulating costs and charges and fees of officers.

Section 92. The Legislature shall not authorize payment to any person of the salary of a deceased officer beyond the date of his death.

Section 93. The Legislature shall not retire any officer on pay, or part pay, or make any grant to such retiring officer.

Section 94. The Legislature shall never create by law any distinction between the rights of men and women to acquire, own, enjoy and dispose of property of all kinds, or their power to contract in reference thereto. Married women are hereby fully emancipated from all disability on account of coverture. But this shall not prevent the Legislature from regulating contracts between husband and wife; nor shall the Legislature be prevented from regulating the sale of homesteads.

Section 95. Lands belonging to, or under the control of the state, shall never be donated directly or indirectly, to private corporations or individuals, or to railroad companies. Nor shall such land be sold to corporations or associations for a less price than that for which it is subject to sale to individuals. This, however, shall not prevent the Legislature from granting a right-of-way, not exceeding one hundred (100) feet in width, as a mere easement to railroads across state lands, and the Legislature shall never dispose of the land covered by said right-of-way so long as such easement exists.

Section 96. The Legislature shall never grant extra compensation, fees or allowances to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after service rendered or contract made, nor authorize payment, or part payment of any claim, under any contract not authorized by law; but appropriations may be made for expenditures in repelling invasion, preventing or suppressing insurrections.

Section 97. The Legislature shall have no power to revive any remedy which may have become barred by lapse of time, or by any statute of limitation of this state.

Section 99. The Legislature shall not elect any other than its own officers and State Librarian.

Section 100. No obligation or liability of any person, association or corporation held or owned by this state, or levee board, or any county, city or town thereof, shall ever be remitted, released or postponed, or in any way diminished by the Legislature, nor shall such liability or obligation be extinguished except by payment thereof into the proper treasury; nor shall such liability or obligation be exchanged or transferred except upon payment of its face value; but this shall not be construed to prevent the Legislature from providing by general law for compromise of doubtful claims.



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## MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

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