

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 833

WHEREAS, Mississippi is a state steeped in culture, rich in history and tradition, and full of promise and potential for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the state flag and coat-of arms have been identifiable symbols of our state, formally and informally, since 1894; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has ruled that Chapter 31, Laws of 1894, which adopted the state flag and state coat-of-arms, was not brought forward in the Code of 1906; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has ruled that there is no existing law establishing or promulgating a flag or coat-of-arms for the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has determined the flag and coat-of-arms currently in use are such by usage and custom only; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Supreme Court has determined that the decision to adopt or not adopt a flag for Mississippi is wholly within the power of the Mississippi Legislature and the executive branch of government; and

WHEREAS, the determination of the flag and coat-of-arms of the State of Mississippi are essential for the continuation without interruption of public and private business;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create and establish the Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arms.

I. PURPOSE

The Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arms shall be a time-limited commission with the sole purpose of proposing and reporting a design for the State Flag and for the State Coat-of-Arms to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House on or before May 4, 2001.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Advisory Commission shall be appointed as follows:

1. three (3) members of the Mississippi House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
2. three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate appointed by the Lt. Governor;
3. eleven members appointed by the Governor, to include:

- (1) two (2) representatives from the field of education
- (1) a representative from the Mississippi Economic Council
- (2) a representative from the Mississippi Arts Commission
- (3) a representative from the Archives and History Board
- (4) three (3) representatives from business and industry, and
- (5) three (3) members at-large.

All appointments to the Commission shall be made by July 1, 2000.

The chairman of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor from the members of the Commission.

A quorum of the Commission shall consist of a majority of the members.

III. FUNCTIONS

The Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arms shall have the following functions and duties:

1. to hold regular, public meetings when and where it sees fit;
2. to receive written, public comment, in a manner it sees fit, and to hold public hearings, under the terms and conditions it determines and sees fit;
3. to collect, examine and consider all information which it determines may be helpful in making a recommendation on use and adoption of Mississippi's state flag and coat of arms;
4. to consult with historical experts, social science experts, representatives of organizations and associations, and others, as it sees fit, whose knowledge or expertise may assist the Commission in making its recommendation;
5. to make any inquiries and conduct any business that may assist the Advisory Commission in submitting a design for a state flag and a state coat of arms, which may include the current designs;
6. keep minutes of its meetings, and make those minutes available to the public;
7. to make a written recommendation, and oral presentation if requested, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House on or before May 4, 2001.

IV. COMPENSATION

Members of the Advisory Commission shall receive no compensation for service on the commission but may receive reasonable reimbursement for actual expenses to the extent allowed by specific legislation and to the extent funds are available for that purpose.

Furthermore, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi do hereby order the state flag and coat-of-arms currently in use remain in use until such time as the Mississippi Legislature considers the report of the commission and the Legislature has had ample time to act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, May 5, 2000, in the two hundred and twenty-fourth year of the United States of America.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE