MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2008

By: Representative Staples To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1021

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A STATEWIDE REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE FAVOR LIMITING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO TWO TERMS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM WILL BE AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION ONLY AND SHALL NOT AFFECT IN ANY WAY THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REFERENDUM BE HELD ON THE DATE OF THE NOVEMBER 2008 GENERAL ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) There shall be a statewide referendum on the question of whether the citizens of the State of Mississippi favor limiting the term of office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives to two (2) terms. The results of the referendum will be an expression of the opinion of the qualified electors of the state with regard to limiting the term of that legislative officer, and the approval or disapproval of the electors shall not affect in any way the term of the Office of Speaker. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to impose any requirement that the House of Representatives amend its permanent rules to limit the office of the Speaker to two (2) terms, based upon the results of the referendum. The referendum shall be held on the date of the general election occurring in November 2008, and conducted in the same manner as the regular general election being held on that date.

(2) All qualified electors of the state may vote in the referendum. The ballots used shall have printed on them a brief statement of the purpose of the referendum and the words "FOR LIMITING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO TWO (2) TERMS" and "AGAINST LIMITING THE TERM

OF OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO TWO (2) TERMS." The elector shall vote by placing a cross (x) mark opposite his or her choice on the proposition.

(3) The county election commissioners shall transmit to the Secretary of State, in the same manner as the vote for state officers is transmitted, a statement of the total number of votes cast in the referendum for the proposition and the total number of votes cast against the proposition. The Secretary of State shall tabulate the returns and certify the results to the Mississippi House of Representatives not later than January 1, 2009.

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

ST: Elections; statewide nonbinding referendum on limiting term of Speaker of House of Representatives.