By Earnest McBride
JA Contributing Editor

The law passed by the Mississippi legislature on Sunday, June 29, 2020, to remove and replace the current state flag was not the first time the Confederate banner had been officially banished from state offices.

During the Civil War, it happened in July 1863, two years after the bloody conflict began. President Lincoln and his most trusted advisors viewed control of the Mississippi as their number one objective.

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Confederate President Jefferson Davis, a native of Vicksburg, was determined to wage an all-out war to maintain control of all the territory between the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains as well as all Confederate lands to the east and south of the Potomac.

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Siege and Surrender at Vicksburg (May 18, 1863-July 4, 1863). Painting depicting General Grant, lower right corner, as his Union soldiers mount siege that forced the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. Note the Confederate flag of America flag high on the hill that was destined to be removed. (Source: Library of Congress)

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To Our Fallen Freedom Fighters
We know you’re smiling down on us
In honor of
Charles Wesley Tisdale | November 7, 2026 - July 7, 2007

Governor Tate Reeves signed House Bill 1796 that retired the state flag on June 30, 2020. (Photo by Rogelio V. Solis-Pool/Getty Images and Jay D. Johnson)

Willie Simmons joined the signing. Reena Evers-Everette, daughter of Medgar Evers, witnessed the historic signing.

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The removal of Confederate symbols from state buildings, as well as other legislative action, has been a topic of discussion. This action is significant in light of the decision by the South Carolina legislature to remove the Confederate flag from the State House. The decision is being watched closely by other states in the region, particularly Mississippi, which continues to face pressure to take similar action.

Vickburg and Jackson's orders in Jackson and the surrounding areas. Mississippi's economy remains a major concern, with many facing jobless and financial stress. The state's unemployment rate remains high, and the pandemic has had a significant impact on the state's economy. Mississippians are looking to their leaders to take action and provide relief.

The state's health care system is also under pressure, with resources stretched thin. The state has faced challenges in vaccine distribution and continues to struggle with the ongoing pandemic.

The state's educational system has also been affected by the pandemic, with schools struggling to provide a safe and effective learning environment for students. The state has faced criticism for its handling of the pandemic, and many are calling for more action to protect the state's students.

Overall, Mississippi continues to face a wide range of challenges, from economic to health care to educational. The state's leaders will need to work together to address these issues and provide solutions that benefit all Mississippians.