

By: Representative Bailey

To: Game and Fish

## HOUSE BILL NO. 430

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT FRESHWATER FISHING LICENSES SHALL BE VALID FOR A  
3 PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 49-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-21. (1) (a) The licenses for hunting, trapping or  
9 fishing shall be issued on a form prepared by the executive  
10 director and supplied to the bonded agents authorized to issue  
11 licenses. The forms shall bear the name and Social Security  
12 number or driver's license number of the applicant. All licenses  
13 except the freshwater fishing license, shall be valid from the  
14 date of its issuance to June 30 following its date. Freshwater  
15 fishing licenses shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months  
16 from the date of issuance. Each license shall be countersigned by  
17 the licensee in the presence of the agent authorized to issue the  
18 same. The licenses shall be issued in the name of the commission  
19 and be countersigned by the bonded agent issuing same. The  
20 application for a license under this chapter shall be subscribed  
21 and sworn to by the applicant before an officer authorized to  
22 administer oaths in this state, and for this purpose the members  
23 of the commission, the executive director, sheriffs, conservation  
24 officers and bonded agents are hereby authorized to administer  
25 oaths, but no charge shall be made by any officer employed by the  
26 commission or sheriff for the administration of the oath.

27 (b) A person may purchase a license from the office of

28 the department without appearing in person.

29 (2) Any person authorized to issue licenses for hunting,  
30 trapping or fishing in this state who attempts to issue a license  
31 on a form other than one as prescribed by this section, or  
32 attempts to prepare a license certificate in any manner other than  
33 on the form prescribed by this section, and furnished by the  
34 executive director, is guilty of a Class II violation, and shall  
35 be punished as provided in Section 49-7-143, Mississippi Code of  
36 1972, and the person convicted shall be forever barred from  
37 issuing licenses in the State of Mississippi.

38 (3) Any resident or nonresident who hunts, takes or traps  
39 any wild animal, bird or fish must possess a valid license issued  
40 by the commission, unless specifically exempted under this  
41 chapter.

42 (4) Any nonresident, who hunts without the required license  
43 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be  
44 fined in an amount not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)  
45 nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the first  
46 offense. The nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting, trapping  
47 and fishing privileges for a period not less than twelve (12)  
48 consecutive months from the date of conviction. For the second or  
49 any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be fined in an amount  
50 of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than  
51 One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or imprisoned in the  
52 county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine  
53 and imprisonment. The nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting,  
54 trapping and fishing privileges for a period not less than  
55 thirty-six (36) consecutive months from the date of conviction.

56 (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license  
57 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in  
58 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
59 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.  
60 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be

61 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
62 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that  
63 nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting, trapping and fishing  
64 privileges for a period not less than twelve (12) consecutive  
65 months from the date of conviction.

66 (6) Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name  
67 or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is  
68 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand  
69 Dollars (\$2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed  
70 one (1) year or both.

71 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
72 and after July 1, 1999.