

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Judiciary

## SENATE BILL NO. 2588

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-1-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE  
3 DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI CRIME LABORATORY; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 45-1-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 45-1-25. The Director of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory  
9 which has been established by the Commissioner of Public Safety  
10 under the authority of Section 45-1-17 shall be a person who is  
11 experienced in crime laboratory operations, knowledgeable of the  
12 criminal justice system, and who shall have the following minimum  
13 qualifications:

14 (a) A master's degree in a forensic science-related  
15 area (a natural science, forensic science, criminal justice,  
16 criminalistics, etc.) from an accredited four-year college or  
17 university; and at least ten (10) years' related work experience  
18 in a forensic environment, of which at least four (4) years were  
19 in an advanced administrative position; plus certification from a  
20 recognized forensic certification program; or

21 (b) A baccalaureate degree in a forensic  
22 science-related area (a natural science, forensic science,  
23 criminal justice, criminalistics, etc.) from an accredited  
24 four-year college or university; and at least twelve (12) years'  
25 related work experience in a forensic environment, of which at  
26 least five (5) years were in an advanced administrative position;  
27 plus certification from a recognized forensic certification

28 program.

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30       The director of the crime laboratory may only be removed by  
31 the Commissioner of Public Safety upon proof of his inability to  
32 serve due to illness, administrative or managerial  
33 ineffectiveness, incompetence, malfeasance, dereliction of duty or  
34 moral turpitude.

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