

By: Flaggs

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 32

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT ALL CONSERVATION OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
3 OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS LICENSE  
4 AGENTS AND MAY SELL HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES; AND  
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 49-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 49-7-17. (1) The department may provide for the appointment  
10 of persons as license agents to sell license certificates for  
11 hunting, trapping or fishing as authorized under Section 49-7-21.

12 The department may, by administrative rule, establish  
13 qualifications, standards and regulations for such license agents.

14 However, all conservation officers employed by the department  
15 shall be considered as license agents and may sell hunting,  
16 trapping and fishing licenses.

17 (2) Each license agent shall be required to be covered under  
18 a surety bond. The department may establish, by administrative  
19 rule, the procedures for the bonding of its license agents, which  
20 procedures may include the implementation of a blanket bonding  
21 system. All premiums for surety bonds required under this section  
22 shall be at the expense of the license agents. Provided, however,

23 that as an alternative to entering into a bond, as required by  
24 this section, any person who shall engage as a licensed agent to  
25 sell license certificates for hunting, trapping or fishing as  
26 authorized under Section 49-7-21 subject to the same conditions of  
27 conduct required for bonds, may deposit with the State Treasurer  
28 the equivalent amount of the bond required for that particular  
29 person in cash or securities. The only securities allowable for  
30 this purpose are those which may legally be purchased by a bank or  
31 for trust funds having a market value not less than that required  
32 bond. The commission shall file notice with the Treasurer for any  
33 violation of the conditions of the cash or security deposit.

34 (3) Any officer or person authorized to issue any hunting or  
35 fishing license or permit or any combination game and fish license  
36 under the laws of this state shall have the power and authority to  
37 collect and retain for the issuance of such license the sum of One  
38 Dollar (\$1.00), in addition to the license fee provided by law,  
39 when such license or permit is sold to a resident of this state.  
40 The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is authorized, in  
41 its discretion, to contract with license agents for services  
42 rendered for an additional amount, not to exceed One Dollar  
43 (\$1.00), in addition to the license fee provided by law.

44 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2000.