AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THAT NEW BONDS SHALL BE SECURED EVERY FOUR YEARS FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICERS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 25-1-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-1-15.  (1)  The bonds of all public officers required to give individual bond shall be conditioned in the following form, to wit:

"Whereas, the above bound A B was duly elected (or appointed) to the office of _____________ on the _____ day of ________, for the term of _____ years from the _____ day of __________; therefore, if he shall faithfully perform all the duties of said office during his continuance therein, then the above obligation to be void."

A new bond in the amount required by law shall be secured at the beginning of each new term of office or every four (4) years, whichever is less.

(2)  The bonds of all public employees required to give individual bond shall be conditioned in the following form, to wit:

"Whereas, the above A B was duly employed (or appointed) to the position of _______ on the _____ day of __________; therefore, if he shall faithfully perform all the duties of said position during his continuance therein, then the above obligation to be void."
A new bond in an amount not less than that required by law shall be secured upon employment and coverage shall continue by the securing of a new bond every four (4) years concurrent with the normal election cycle of the Governor or with the normal election cycle of the local government applicable to the employee.

(3) A failure to observe the form herein prescribed shall not vitiate any official bond; and all official bonds shall be valid and binding in whatever form they may be taken, except so far as they may be conditioned for the performance of acts in violation of the laws or policy of the state. Whether in the proper penalty or without any penalty, whether correct or incorrect in its recitals as to the term of office or otherwise, whether properly payable, whether approved by the proper officer or not approved by any, or if irregular in any other respect, such bond, if delivered as the official bond of the officer or employee and serving as such, shall be obligatory on everyone who subscribed it for the purpose of making the official bond of such officer or employee to the full penalty or, if it has no penalty, to the full penalty of the bond which might have been required.

(4) All blanket bonds given on positions of public employment shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of all the duties of the positions covered and insured by said blanket bond. A new bond in an amount not less than that required by law for public employees shall be secured at the beginning of each new term of office of the public or appointed official by whom they are employed, if applicable, or at least every four (4) years concurrent with the normal election cycle of the Governor.

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