

By: Hewes

To: Ports and Marine
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2588
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE A SEPARATE LICENSE FEE FOR CERTAIN NONRESIDENT CHARTER
3 BOATS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:[LTR1]

7 49-15-313. (1) Any resident between the ages of sixteen
8 (16) and sixty-five (65) years, as defined in Section 49-7-3,
9 fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a
10 saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of Four Dollars
11 (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of
12 Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, paraplegic or a
13 multiple amputee, or who has been adjudged by the Veterans
14 Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or
15 has been adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security
16 Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his
17 possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in
18 such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall
19 have on his person while fishing proof of residency and age or
20 disability.

21 (2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees
22 for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the
23 fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not
24 be less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00). The commission shall
25 require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing
26 license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the

27 nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to
28 fish in its marine waters.

29 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,
30 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be
31 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two
32 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in
33 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat
34 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the
35 commission. The commission shall set the fees for nonresident
36 vessel licenses as provided in Section 49-15-30. Crew members and
37 customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to
38 purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing
39 license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a
40 licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of
41 customers to the department as required by the commission and the
42 information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released,
43 except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical
44 data. All nonresident vessels engaged in saltwater sport fishing
45 tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate of twenty (20) days per
46 calendar year, shall not be required to purchase an annual license
47 as provided under this subsection.

48 (4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all
49 recreational methods of finfish harvest.

50 (5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's
51 license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to
52 fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt
53 from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

54 (6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and
55 retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional
56 fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

57 (7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and
58 nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited
59 into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management
60 of marine resources.

61 (8) Participants in the Very Special Fishing Olympics are
62 exempt from this section.

63 (9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater

64 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without
65 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

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