HOUSE BILL NO. 155

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-25-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 19-25-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

19-25-3. A person shall not be eligible to the office of sheriff who shall, at the time of the election, be a defaulter to the state, or any county or municipality thereof, or to the United States. Any person who is not a qualified elector, or who denies the existence of a Supreme Being, shall not be eligible to said office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony as defined in Section 1-3-11, shall not be eligible to the office. A sheriff shall be eligible to immediately succeed himself in office.

Prior to taking the oath of office and entering into the performance of the duties and obligations of sheriff, or as soon after his election as possible, each sheriff-elect, excluding those who have previously served as sheriff, or have had at least five (5) years' experience as a full-time enforcement officer, or have previously successfully completed a course of training at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy or the Jackson Police Academy, shall, at the expense of the county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law enforcement at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy. Any sheriff exempted from attendance because of previous service as sheriff or having five (5) years' full-time law enforcement experience must have served as sheriff or obtained such experience within a period

H. B. No. 155

G1/2

01/HR40/R304

PAGE 1 (CJR\BD)
of ten (10) years prior to the date of his taking the oath of office. Any sheriff exempted from attendance because of successful completion of a course of training at either of the aforementioned academies must have completed such course within five (5) years prior to the date of his taking the oath of office.

No sheriff, excluding those specified as being exempt from the initial course in this section, shall until he has attended said Academy be entitled to payment of salary after the first one (1) year in office if he fails to attend said academy as herein provided within one (1) year after his taking office. All sheriffs shall, on a periodic basis, attend additional advanced courses in law enforcement in order that they will be properly informed and trained in the modern, technical advances of law enforcement.

Prior to July 1, 1973, or as soon thereafter as permitted by vacancies at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy, either the sheriff or one (1) deputy sheriff in each county having two (2) or more full-time deputies shall, at the expense of the county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of narcotics and dangerous drugs at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy. In the event that a new sheriff is elected who has not previously received such training or at least one (1) of his deputies has not previously received such training, or if for any other reason neither the sheriff nor any of the deputy sheriffs in a county shall have received such training, then the sheriff shall promptly notify the director of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy and either the sheriff or a deputy sheriff, as soon thereafter as permitted by vacancies at the academy, shall, at the expense of the county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
extended.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.