SENATE BILL NO. 2543

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 67-1-71, 87-1-5, 97-33-1, 97-33-7, 97-33-17, 97-33-25 AND 97-33-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE WATERS UPON WHICH GAMING ABOUND CRUISE VESSELS IS ALLOWED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 67-1-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

67-1-71. The commission may revoke or suspend any permit issued by it for a violation by the permittee of any of the provisions of this chapter or of the regulations promulgated under it by the commission.

Permits must be revoked or suspended for the following causes:

(a) Conviction of the permittee for the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter;

(b) Willful failure or refusal by any permittee to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto;

(c) The making of any materially false statement in any application for a permit;

(d) Conviction of one or more of the clerks, agents or employees of the permittee, of any violation of this chapter upon the premises covered by such permit within a period of time as designated by the rules or regulations of the commission;

(e) The possession on the premises of any retail permittee of any alcoholic beverages upon which the tax has not been paid;
(f) The willful failure of any permittee to keep the records or make the reports required by this chapter, or to allow an inspection of such records by any duly authorized person;

(g) The suspension or revocation of a permit issued to the permittee by the federal government, or conviction of violating any federal law relating to alcoholic beverages;

(h) The failure to furnish any bond required by this chapter within fifteen (15) days after notice from the commission;

and

(i) The conducting of any form of illegal gambling on the premises of any permittee or on any premises connected therewith or the presence on any such premises of any gambling device with the knowledge of the permittee.

The provisions of item (i) of this section shall not apply to gambling or the presence of any gambling devices, with knowledge of the permittee,

(a) On board a cruise vessel in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than:

(i) The Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi;

(ii) St. Louis Bay; or

(iii) The Mississippi Sound; or

(b) On any vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River.
The commission may, in its discretion, issue on-premises retailer's permits to a common carrier of the nature described in this paragraph.

No permit shall be revoked except after a hearing by the commission with reasonable notice to the permittee and an opportunity for him to appear and defend.

In addition to the causes specified in this section and other provisions of this chapter, the commission shall be authorized to suspend the permit of any permit holder for being out of compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a permit for being out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. If there is any conflict between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

SECTION 2. Section 87-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

87-1-5. If any person, by playing at any game whatever, or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do play at any game, or by betting on any horse race or cockfight, or at any other sport or pastime, or by any wager whatever, shall lose any money, property or other valuable thing, real or personal, and shall pay or deliver the same or any part thereof, the person so losing and paying or delivering the same, or his wife or children, may sue for and recover such money, property or other valuable thing so lost and paid or delivered, or any part thereof, from the person knowingly receiving the same, with costs. However, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:
(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than:

(i) The Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi;

(ii) St. Louis Bay; or

(iii) The Mississippi Sound;

(b) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River; or

(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 3. Section 97-33-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-1. If any person shall encourage, promote or play at any game, play or amusement, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs, for money or other valuable thing, or shall wager or bet, promote or encourage the wagering or betting of any money or other valuable things, upon any game, play, amusement, cockfight, Indian ball play, or duel, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs, or upon the result of any election, event or contingency whatever, upon conviction thereof, he shall be fined in a sum not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00); and, unless such fine and costs be immediately paid, shall be imprisoned for any period not more than ninety (90) days. However, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:
(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than (i) the Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi, (ii) St. Louis Bay, or (iii) the Mississippi Sound, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; or

(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 4. Section 97-33-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-7. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm, copartnership, or corporation to have in possession, own, control, display, or operate any cane rack, knife rack, artful dodger, punch board, roll down, merchandise wheel, slot machine, pinball machine, or similar device or devices. Provided, however, that this section shall not be so construed as to make unlawful the ownership, possession, control, display or operation of any antique coin machine as defined in Section
27-27-12, or any music machine or bona fide automatic vending machine where the purchaser receives exactly the same quantity of merchandise on each operation of said machine. Any slot machine other than an antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 which delivers, or is so constructed as that by operation thereof it will deliver to the operator thereof anything of value in varying quantities, in addition to the merchandise received, and any slot machine other than an antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 that is constructed in such manner as that slugs, tokens, coins or similar devices are, or may be, used and delivered to the operator thereof in addition to merchandise of any sort contained in such machine, is hereby declared to be a gambling device, and shall be deemed unlawful under the provisions of this section. Provided, however, that pinball machines which do not return to the operator or player thereof anything but free additional games or plays shall not be deemed to be gambling devices, and neither this section nor any other law shall be construed to prohibit same.

(2) No property right shall exist in any person, natural or artificial, or be vested in such person, in any or all of the devices described herein that are not exempted from the provisions of this section; and all such devices are hereby declared to be at all times subject to confiscation and destruction, and their possession shall be unlawful, except when in the possession of officers carrying out the provisions of this section. It shall be the duty of all law-enforcing officers to seize and immediately destroy all such machines and devices.

(3) A first violation of the provisions of this section shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and the party offending shall, upon conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or imprisoned not exceeding three (3) months, or both, in the discretion of the court. In the event of a second conviction for a violation of any of the provisions of this
section, the party offending shall be subject to a sentence of not
less than six (6) months in the county jail, nor more than two (2)
years in the State Penitentiary, in the discretion of the trial
court.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
contrary, it shall not be unlawful to operate any equipment or
device described in subsection (1) of this section or any gaming,
gambling or similar device or devices by whatever name called
while:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1
whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of
Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south
of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of
Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers,
creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other
than (i) the Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from
the point at which the western city limits of the City of
D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to
the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the
Back Bay of Biloxi, (ii) St. Louis Bay, or (iii) the Mississippi
Sound, and in which the registered voters of the county in which
the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting,
gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section
19-3-79;

(b) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever
such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within
any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the
registered voters of the county in which the port is located have
not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels
as provided in Section 19-3-79; or

(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of
Mississippi.
(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, it shall not be unlawful (a) to own, possess, repair or control any gambling device, machine or equipment on board any cruise vessel in this state of not less than one hundred fifty (150) feet in overall length or vessel in this state of not less than one hundred fifty (150) feet in overall length or on the business premises appurtenant to any such cruise vessel or vessel during any period of time in which such cruise vessel or vessel is being constructed, repaired, maintained or operated in this state; (b) to install any gambling device, machine or equipment on board any cruise vessel in this state of not less than one hundred fifty (150) feet in overall length or vessel in this state of not less than one hundred fifty (150) feet in overall length; (c) to possess or control any gambling device, machine or equipment during the process of procuring or transporting such device, machine or equipment for installation on any such cruise vessel or vessel; or (d) to store in a warehouse or other storage facility any gambling device, machine, equipment, or part thereof, regardless of whether the county or municipality in which the warehouse or storage facility is located has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels, provided that such device, machine or equipment is operated only in a county or municipality that has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels. Any gambling device, machine or equipment that is owned, possessed, controlled, installed, procured, repaired, transported or stored in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to confiscation, seizure or destruction, and any person, firm, partnership or corporation which owns, possesses, controls, installs, procures, repairs, transports or stores any gambling device, machine or equipment in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to any prosecution or penalty under this section. Any person constructing or repairing such cruise vessels or vessels within a municipality shall comply with all municipal...
ordinances protecting the general health or safety of the residents of the municipality.

SECTION 5. Section 97-33-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-17. (1) All monies exhibited for the purpose of betting or alluring persons to bet at any game, and all monies staked or betted, shall be liable to seizure by any sheriff, constable, or police officer, together with all the appliances used or kept for use in gambling, or by any other person; and all the monies so seized shall be accounted for by the person making the seizure, and all appliances seized shall be destroyed; provided, however, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering on:

(a) A cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than (i) the Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi, (ii) St. Louis Bay, or (iii) the Mississippi Sound, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) A vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have
not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; or

(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to any gambling device, machine or equipment that is owned, possessed, controlled, installed, procured, repaired or transported in accordance with subsection (4) of Section 97-33-7.

SECTION 6. Section 97-33-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-25. If any person shall sell or buy, either directly or indirectly, any chance in what is commonly called pool, upon any event whatever, or shall in any manner engage in such business or pastime, he shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) or shall be imprisoned in the county jail not more than ninety (90) days; provided, however, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than (i) the Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi, (ii) St. Louis Bay, or (iii) the Mississippi Sound, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;
On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; or

(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 7. Section 97-33-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-27. If any person shall bet on a horse race or a yacht race or on a shooting match, he shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), and, unless the fine and costs be immediately paid, he shall be imprisoned in the county jail not more than ninety (90) days; provided, however, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, which are not man-made water bottoms, or rivers, creeks, bayous or other naturally occurring bodies of water other than (i) the Back Bay of Biloxi east of a straight line drawn from the point at which the western city limits of the City of D'Iberville intersect the north shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi to the point at which Interstate I-110 crosses the south shore of the Back Bay of Biloxi, (ii) St. Louis Bay, or (iii) the Mississippi Sound, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within
any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the
registered voters of the county in which the port is located have
not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels
as provided in Section 19-3-79; or
(c) That is legal under the laws of the State of
Mississippi.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after its passage.