

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2659

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE PERSONS ABOARD VESSELS UNDERWAY TO WEAR PERSONAL
3 FLOTATION DEVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 59-21-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 59-21-81. Every vessel shall have on board a Coast Guard
8 approved personal flotation device for each person aboard such
9 vessel, and every person * * * on board a motorboat, sailboat or
10 vessel * * * shall wear a * * * Coast Guard approved personal
11 flotation device while such motorboat, sailboat or vessel is
12 underway. For the purpose of this section "underway" shall mean
13 at all times except when a motorboat, sailboat or vessel is
14 anchored, moored or aground. Every vessel shall have lights
15 during the hours of darkness, which comply with all federal
16 regulations applicable to vessels of its classification. Such
17 vessel shall not be operated unless in a safe and seaworthy
18 condition; the owner and operator shall employ such safety devices
19 as may be necessary for the safe operation of such vessel,
20 including an efficient natural or mechanical ventilating system
21 when necessary for safe operation. In addition to the
22 requirements imposed by this section, all vessels shall comply
23 with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of such
24 classification.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
26 and after July 1, 2001.