

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2980

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-1-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION AS A
3 CONSERVATION OFFICER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 49-1-15. (1) All appointments of conservation officers
8 shall be under rules adopted and promulgated by the commission.
9 No person shall be appointed * * * unless he meets the following
10 requirements:

11 (a) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; * * *

12 (b) Has passed the required examination by correctly
13 answering at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions on the
14 examination * * *. The examination shall embrace the applicant's
15 knowledge of the state game and fish laws, cattle theft laws and
16 litter laws, and the duties and responsibilities of a conservation
17 officer;

18 (c) After July 1, 2001, has successfully completed
19 sixty (60) semester hours at an accredited community college or
20 university. The curriculum is subject to approval by the
21 commission. After July 1, 2002, a person must meet the
22 requirements of paragraph (d);

23 (d) After July 1, 2002, has a bachelor's degree from an
24 accredited institution of higher learning; and

25 (e) Any other requirements the commission deems
26 necessary to perform the duties of the office.

27 (2) Each applicant, prior to entering into performance of
28 his duties, at the expense of the department, shall attend and
29 complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law enforcement
30 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy or
31 other training academy whose curriculum complies with requirements
32 of the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.
33 Conservation officers shall, on a periodic basis, be required to
34 successfully complete additional advanced courses in law
35 enforcement in order that they will be properly improved and
36 trained in the modern, technical advances of law enforcement.

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