SENATE BILL NO. 2980
(As Sent to Governor)

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

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

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

49-1-15. (1) All appointments of conservation officers
shall be under rules adopted and promulgated by the commission.
No person shall be appointed from and after July 1, 2001, unless
he meets the following requirements:

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

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

(c) Has successfully completed sixty-four (64) semester
hours at an accredited community college or university or has an
associate degree from an accredited community college or has
passed the Law Enforcement Academy and has at least five (5) years
experience in law enforcement.

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

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