

By: Representative Taylor

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 305

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-26-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE MANAGEMENT TRAINING REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY
3 PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS BE LIMITED TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE
4 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OVER THE DAY-TO-DAY
5 OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-26-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 41-26-101. (1) Each member elected or reelected after June
10 30, 1998, to serve on a governing board of any community public
11 water system, except systems operated by municipalities with a
12 population greater than two thousand five hundred (2,500), and who
13 has responsibility for direct supervision over the day-to-day
14 operation of the system, shall attend a minimum of eight (8) hours
15 of management training within two (2) years following the election
16 of that board member. Whether a member has responsibility for
17 direct supervision over the day-to-day operation of the system
18 shall be determined by the State Department of Health. Any member
19 failing to complete the management training within two (2) years
20 after his election shall be subject to removal from the board by
21 the remaining members. If a board member has undergone training
22 and is reelected to the board, that board member shall not be
23 required to attend training as provided by this subsection.

24 (2) The management training shall be organized by the State
25 Department of Health, in cooperation with the Mississippi Rural
26 Water Association and other organizations. The management
27 training shall include information on water system management and
28 financing, rate setting and structures, operations and



29 maintenance, applicable laws and regulations, ethics, the duties
30 and responsibilities of a board member and other information
31 deemed necessary by the department after consultation with the
32 association and other organizations. The department shall develop
33 and provide all training materials. The department may charge a
34 fee not to exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per member to
35 defray the actual costs of providing the materials and training.
36 These costs shall be reimbursed to the board member as an expense
37 of the community public water system.

38 (3) To avoid board members having to interfere with their
39 jobs or employment, management training sessions may be divided
40 into segments and, to the greatest extent possible, shall be
41 scheduled for evening sessions. The department shall conduct
42 management training on a regional basis and shall use community
43 college or other public facilities for the convenience of board
44 members.

45 (4) The department may make exceptions to and grant
46 exemptions and variances to the requirements of this section for
47 good cause shown.

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2002.

