

By: Representative Grist

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-25-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT NO FULL-TIME DEPUTY SHERIFF IS PERMITTED TO WORK  
3 IN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT JOB; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-25-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 19-25-19. Every sheriff shall have power to appoint one or  
9 more deputies to assist him in carrying out the duties of his  
10 office, every such appointment to be in writing, to remove them at  
11 pleasure, and to fix their compensation, subject to the budget for  
12 the sheriff's office approved by the county board of supervisors.  
13 Such deputies shall have authority to do all the acts and duties  
14 enjoined upon their principals. Every deputy sheriff, except such  
15 as may be appointed to do a particular act only, before he enters  
16 on the duties of office, shall take and subscribe an oath  
17 faithfully to execute the office of deputy sheriff, according to  
18 the best of his skill and judgment. The appointment, with the  
19 certificate of the oath, shall be filed and preserved in the  
20 office of the clerk of the board of supervisors. All sheriffs  
21 shall be liable for the acts of their deputies, and for money  
22 collected by them. The circuit court, after a notice and a  
23 hearing, shall have power to remove such deputies and also  
24 bailiffs, upon a showing that the public interest will be served  
25 thereby. Each deputy sheriff shall be at least twenty-one (21)  
26 years of age, a qualified elector of the State of Mississippi, and  
27 shall not have been convicted of a felony. Prior to appointing  
28 any person a deputy sheriff, the sheriff shall determine that the



29 proposed appointee is of good moral character and is capable of  
30 fairly and impartially enforcing the law of the State of  
31 Mississippi. No full-time deputy sheriff is permitted to work in  
32 any other government law enforcement job.

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

