

By: Representatives Wells-Smith, Barnett  
(116th), Broomfield, Creel, Fillingane,  
Formby, Fredericks, Hamilton, Janus,  
Jennings, Maples, Peranich, Robertson, Zuber

To: Conservation and Water  
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1564

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A RESIDENT OR NONRESIDENT FRESHWATER OR SALTWATER  
3 FISHING LICENSE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ANY PERSON WHO FISHES  
4 WITHIN A CERTAIN AREA SOUTH OF THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN SALT AND  
5 FRESH WATERS ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE  
6 RESOURCES AND THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 49-15-313. (1) Any resident between the ages of sixteen  
12 (16) and sixty-five (65) years, as defined in Section 49-7-3,  
13 fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a  
14 saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of Four Dollars  
15 (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of  
16 Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, paraplegic or a  
17 multiple amputee, or who has been adjudged by the Veterans  
18 Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or  
19 has been adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security  
20 Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his  
21 possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in  
22 such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall  
23 have on his person while fishing proof of residency and age or  
24 disability.

25 (2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees  
26 for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the  
27 fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not  
28 be less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00). The commission shall  
29 require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing



30 license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the  
31 nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to  
32 fish in its marine waters.

33 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,  
34 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be  
35 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two  
36 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in  
37 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat  
38 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the  
39 commission. The commission shall set the fees for nonresident  
40 vessel licenses as provided in Section 49-15-30. Crew members and  
41 customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to  
42 purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing  
43 license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a  
44 licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of  
45 customers to the department as required by the commission and the  
46 information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released,  
47 except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical  
48 data. All nonresident vessels engaged in saltwater sport fishing  
49 tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate of twenty (20) days per  
50 calendar year, shall not be required to purchase an annual license  
51 as provided under this subsection.

52 (4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all  
53 recreational methods of finfish harvest.

54 (5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's  
55 license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to  
56 fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt  
57 from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

58 (6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and  
59 retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional  
60 fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

61 (7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and  
62 nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited



63 into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management  
64 of marine resources.

65 (8) Participants in the Very Special Fishing Olympics are  
66 exempt from this section.

67 (9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater  
68 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without  
69 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

70 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any  
71 other provisions of law to the contrary, a resident or nonresident  
72 freshwater or saltwater fishing license shall not be required for  
73 any person who fishes, beaches, piers, growings and waters where  
74 wading is common and practicable within an area south of the  
75 dividing line between salt and fresh waters established under  
76 Section 49-15-23 by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources  
77 and the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks excluding the  
78 barrier islands.

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

