

By: Representative Ellington

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1670

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-26-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT MANAGEMENT TRAINING SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR BOARD
3 MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS AND FOR ELECTED
4 OFFICIALS WITH RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE SYSTEMS; AND FOR RELATED
5 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, 2001, to serve on a governing board of any community public
11 water system, and each elected official who has responsibility for
12 the management of the system, shall attend a minimum of eight (8)
13 hours of management training within two (2) years following the
14 election of that board member. Any board member failing to
15 complete the management training within two (2) years after his
16 election shall be subject to removal from the board by the
17 remaining members. If a board member has undergone training and
18 is reelected to the board, that board member shall not be required
19 to attend training as provided by this subsection.

20 (2) The management training shall be organized by the State
21 Department of Health, in cooperation with the Mississippi Rural
22 Water Association and other organizations. The management
23 training shall include information on water system management and
24 financing, rate setting and structures, operations and
25 maintenance, applicable laws and regulations, ethics, the duties
26 and responsibilities of a board member and other information
27 deemed necessary by the department after consultation with the
28 association and other organizations. The department shall develop



29 and provide all training materials. The department may charge a
30 fee not to exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per member to
31 defray the actual costs of providing the materials and training.
32 These costs shall be reimbursed to the board member as an expense
33 of the community public water system.

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

41 (4) The department may make exceptions to and grant
42 exemptions and variances to the requirements of this section for
43 good cause shown.

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

