By: Senator(s) Dickerson

To: Judiciary

## SENATE BILL NO. 2697

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-11-30, 63-11-49, 63-11-51 AND 63-11-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE WHEREBY A VEHICLE OWNED AND OPERATED BY A PERSON CONVICTED OF A THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT DUI MAY BE FORFEITED AND TO CLARIFY THE RIGHT 3 4 OF AN OWNER OR LIENHOLDER TO SECURE RELEASE OF A VEHICLE SEIZED 5 UPON A THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT DUI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 6 7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: SECTION 1. Section 63-11-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 8 amended as follows: 9 10 63-11-30. (1) It is unlawful for any person to drive or otherwise operate a vehicle within this state who (a) is under the 11 influence of intoxicating liquor; (b) is under the influence of 12 any other substance which has impaired such person's ability to 13 operate a motor vehicle; (c) has an alcohol concentration of ten 14 one-hundredths percent (.10%) or more for persons who are above 15 the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages under state law, or 16 two one-hundredths percent (.02%) or more for persons who are 17 below the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages under state 18 law, in the person's blood based upon grams of alcohol per one 19 hundred (100) milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per two 20 hundred ten (210) liters of breath as shown by a chemical analysis 21 of such person's breath, blood or urine administered as authorized 22 by this chapter; (d) is under the influence of any drug or 23 controlled substance, the possession of which is unlawful under 24 the Mississippi Controlled Substances Law; or (e) has an alcohol 25 concentration of four one-hundredths percent (.04%) or more in the 26

person's blood, based upon grams of alcohol per one hundred (100)

milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per two hundred ten (210)

liters of breath as shown by a chemical analysis of such person's

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- 30 blood, breath or urine, administered as authorized by this chapter 31 for persons operating a commercial motor vehicle.
- 32 (2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3),
- 33 upon conviction of any person for the first offense of violating
- 34 subsection (1) of this section where chemical tests provided for
- 35 under Section 63-11-5 were given, or where chemical test results
- 36 are not available, such person shall be fined not less than Two
- 37 Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars
- 38 (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned for not more than forty-eight (48)
- 39 hours in jail or both; and the court shall order such person to
- 40 attend and complete an alcohol safety education program as
- 41 provided in Section 63-11-32. The court may substitute attendance
- 42 at a victim impact panel instead of forty-eight (48) hours in
- 43 jail. In addition, the Department of Public Safety, the
- 44 Commissioner of Public Safety or his duly authorized agent shall,
- 45 after conviction and upon receipt of the court abstract, suspend
- 46 the driver's license and driving privileges of such person for a
- 47 period of not less than ninety (90) days and until such person
- 48 attends and successfully completes an alcohol safety education
- 49 program as herein provided; provided, however, in no event shall
- 50 such period of suspension exceed one (1) year. Commercial driving
- 51 privileges shall be suspended as provided in Section 63-1-83.
- The circuit court having jurisdiction in the county in which
- 53 the conviction was had or the circuit court of the person's county
- 54 of residence may reduce the suspension of driving privileges under
- 55 Section 63-11-30(2)(a) if the denial of which would constitute a
- 56 hardship on the offender, except that no court may issue such an
- 57 order reducing the suspension of driving privileges under this
- 58 subsection until thirty (30) days have elapsed from the effective
- 59 date of the suspension. Hardships shall only apply to first
- offenses under Section 63-11-30(1), and shall not apply to second,
- 61 third or subsequent convictions of any person violating subsection
- 62 (1) of this section. A reduction of suspension on the basis of

hardship shall not be available to any person who refused to 63 64 submit to a chemical test upon the request of a law enforcement officer as provided in Section 63-11-5. When the petition is 65 66 filed, such person shall pay to the circuit clerk of the court 67 where the petition is filed a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), which shall be deposited into the State General Fund to the credit of a 68 special fund hereby created in the State Treasury to be used for 69 70 alcohol or drug abuse treatment and education, upon appropriation by the Legislature. This fee shall be in addition to any other 71 court costs or fees required for the filing of petitions. 72 73 The petition filed under the provisions of this subsection shall contain the specific facts which the petitioner alleges to 74 75 constitute a hardship and the driver's license number of the petitioner. A hearing may be held on any petition filed under 76 this subsection only after ten (10) days' prior written notice to 77 the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designated agent, or the 78 attorney designated to represent the state. At such hearing, the 79 80 court may enter an order reducing the period of suspension. The order entered under the provisions of this subsection 81 82 shall contain the specific grounds upon which hardship was determined, and shall order the petitioner to attend and complete 83 84 an alcohol safety education program as provided in Section 63-11-32. A certified copy of such order shall be delivered to 85 the Commissioner of Public Safety by the clerk of the court within 86 87 five (5) days of the entry of the order. The certified copy of such order shall contain information which will identify the 88 89 petitioner, including, but not limited to, the name, mailing address, street address, social security number and driver's 90 license number of the petitioner. 91 At any time following at least thirty (30) days of suspension 92 for a first offense violation of this section, the court may grant 93

the person hardship driving privileges upon written petition of

- 95 the defendant, if it finds reasonable cause to believe that
- 96 revocation would hinder the person's ability to:
- 97 (i) Continue his employment;
- 98 (ii) Continue attending school or an educational
- 99 institution; or
- 100 (iii) Obtain necessary medical care.
- 101 Proof of the hardship shall be established by clear and
- 102 convincing evidence which shall be supported by independent
- 103 documentation.
- 104 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3),
- 105 upon any second conviction of any person violating subsection (1)
- 106 of this section, the offenses being committed within a period of
- 107 five (5) years, such person shall be fined not less than Six
- 108 Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) nor more than One Thousand Five Hundred
- 109 Dollars (\$1,500.00), shall be imprisoned not less than five (5)
- 110 days nor more than one (1) year and sentenced to community service
- 111 work for not less than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year.
- 112 The minimum penalties shall not be suspended or reduced by the
- 113 court and no prosecutor shall offer any suspension or sentence
- 114 reduction as part of a plea bargain. Except as may otherwise be
- 115 provided by paragraph (d) of this subsection, the Commissioner of
- 116 Public Safety shall suspend the driver's license of such person
- 117 for two (2) years. Suspension of a commercial driver's license
- 118 shall be governed by Section 63-1-83. Upon any second conviction
- 119 as described in this paragraph, the court shall ascertain whether
- 120 the defendant is married, and if the defendant is married shall
- 121 obtain the name and address of the defendant's spouse; the clerk
- 122 of the court shall submit this information to the Department of
- 123 Public Safety. Further, the commissioner shall notify in writing,
- 124 by certified mail, return receipt requested, the owner of the
- 125 vehicle and the spouse, if any, of the person convicted of the
- 126 second violation of the possibility of forfeiture of the vehicle
- 127 if such person is convicted of a third violation of subsection (1)

128 of this section. The owner of the vehicle and the spouse shall be

129 considered notified under this paragraph if the notice is

130 deposited in the United States mail and any claim that the notice

131 was not in fact received by the addressee shall not affect a

132 subsequent forfeiture proceeding.

For any second or subsequent conviction of any person under

134 this section, the person shall also be subject to the penalties

135 set forth in Section 63-11-31.

136 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), for

137 any third or subsequent conviction of any person violating

138 subsection (1) of this section, the offenses being committed

139 within a period of five (5) years, such person shall be guilty of

140 a felony and fined not less than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)

141 nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), shall be

142 imprisoned not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years

143 in the State Penitentiary. In addition to the foregoing

144 penalties, the sentencing court shall order forfeiture of the

145 <u>vehicle owned and operated by the convicted person at the time of</u>

146 the third or subsequent offense. The court shall order the

147 vehicle forfeited to the law enforcement agency which seized the

148 vehicle. The court shall forward a copy of the forfeiture order

149 to the law enforcement agency which seized the vehicle. The

150 minimum penalties shall not be suspended or reduced by the court

151 and no prosecutor shall offer any suspension or sentence reduction

152 as part of a plea bargain. The law enforcement agency shall seize

153 the vehicle operated by any person charged with a third or

154 subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section, if such

155 convicted person was driving the vehicle at the time the offense

156 was committed. \* \* \* Except as may otherwise be provided by

157 paragraph (e) of this subsection, the Commissioner of Public

158 Safety shall suspend the driver's license of such person for five

159 (5) years. The suspension of a commercial driver's license shall

160 be governed by Section 63-1-83.

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), any 161 (d) person convicted of a second violation of subsection (1) of this 162 section shall receive an in-depth diagnostic assessment, and if as 163 164 a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of 165 treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem, such person shall successfully complete treatment of his alcohol and/or drug 166 167 abuse problem at a program site certified by the Department of 168 Mental Health. Such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of his driving privileges upon the successful completion of such 169 treatment after a period of one (1) year after such person's 170 171 driver's license is suspended. Each person who receives a diagnostic assessment shall pay a fee representing the cost of 172 173 such assessment. Each person who participates in a treatment 174 program shall pay a fee representing the cost of such treatment. 175 Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), any person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of subsection 176 177

person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section shall receive an in-depth diagnostic assessment, and if as a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem, such person shall enter an alcohol and/or drug abuse program approved by the Department of Mental Health for treatment of such person's alcohol and/or drug abuse problem. If such person successfully completes such treatment, such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of his driving privileges after a period of three (3) years after such person's driver's license is suspended.

(f) The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate
rules and regulations for the use of interlock ignition devices as
provided in Section 63-11-31 and consistent with the provisions
therein. Such rules and regulations shall provide for the
calibration of such devices and shall provide that the cost of the
use of such systems shall be borne by the offender. The

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- Department of Public Safety shall approve which vendors of such devices shall be used to furnish such systems.
- 195 (3) (a) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as
- 196 Zero Tolerance for Minors. The provisions of this subsection
- 197 shall apply only when a person under the age of twenty-one (21)
- 198 years has a blood alcohol concentration two one-hundredths percent
- 199 (.02%) or more, but lower than eight one-hundredths percent
- 200 (.08%). If such person's blood alcohol concentration is eight
- one-hundredths percent (.08%) or more, the provisions of
- 202 subsection (2) shall apply.
- 203 (b) Upon conviction of any person under the age of
- 204 twenty-one (21) years for the first offense of violating
- 205 subsection (1) of this section where chemical tests provided for
- 206 under Section 63-11-5 were given, or where chemical test results
- 207 are not available, such person shall have his driver's license
- 208 suspended for ninety (90) days and shall be fined Two Hundred
- 209 Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); and the court shall order such person to
- 210 attend and complete an alcohol safety education program as
- 211 provided in Section 63-11-32. The court may also require
- 212 attendance at a victim impact panel.
- 213 The circuit court having jurisdiction in the county in which
- 214 the conviction was had or the circuit court of the person's county
- 215 of residence may reduce the suspension of driving privileges under
- 216 Section 63-11-30(2)(a) if the denial of which would constitute a
- 217 hardship on the offender, except that no court may issue such an
- 218 order reducing the suspension of driving privileges under this
- 219 subsection until thirty (30) days have elapsed from the effective
- 220 date of the suspension. Hardships shall only apply to first
- offenses under Section 63-11-30(1), and shall not apply to second,
- 222 third or subsequent convictions of any person violating subsection
- 223 (1) of this section. A reduction of suspension on the basis of
- 224 hardship shall not be available to any person who refused to
- 225 submit to a chemical test upon the request of a law enforcement

filed, such person shall pay to the circuit clerk of the court 227 where the petition is filed a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), which 228 229 shall be deposited into the State General Fund to the credit of a 230 special fund hereby created in the State Treasury to be used for 231 alcohol or drug abuse treatment and education, upon appropriation by the Legislature. This fee shall be in addition to any other 232 court costs or fees required for the filing of petitions. 233 The petition filed under the provisions of this subsection 234 shall contain the specific facts which the petitioner alleges to 235 236 constitute a hardship and the driver's license number of the petitioner. A hearing may be held on any petition filed under 237 this subsection only after ten (10) days' prior written notice to 238 the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designated agent, or the 239 attorney designated to represent the state. At such hearing, the 240 court may enter an order reducing the period of suspension. 241 The order entered under the provisions of this subsection 242 243 shall contain the specific grounds upon which hardship was determined, and shall order the petitioner to attend and complete 244 an alcohol safety education program as provided in Section 245 63-11-32. A certified copy of such order shall be delivered to 246 247 the Commissioner of Public Safety by the clerk of the court within five (5) days of the entry of the order. 248 The certified copy of such order shall contain information which will identify the 249 250 petitioner, including, but not limited to, the name, mailing address, street address, social security number and driver's 251 license number of the petitioner. 252 253 At any time following at least thirty (30) days of suspension 254 for a first offense violation of this section, the court may grant 255 the person hardship driving privileges upon written petition of the defendant, if it finds reasonable cause to believe that 256

officer as provided in Section 63-11-5. When the petition is

(i) Continue his employment;

revocation would hinder the person's ability to:

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259	(ii)	Continue	attending	school	or	an	educational

260 institution; or

261 (iii) Obtain necessary medical care.

262 Proof of the hardship shall be established by clear and

263 convincing evidence which shall be supported by independent

264 documentation.

265 (c) Upon any second conviction of any person under the

266 age of twenty-one (21) years violating subsection (1) of this

267 section, the offenses being committed within a period of five (5)

268 years, such person shall be fined not more than Five Hundred

Dollars (\$500.00) and shall have his driver's license suspended

270 for one (1) year.

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(d) For any third or subsequent conviction of any

272 person under the age of twenty-one (21) years violating subsection

(1) of this section, the offenses being committed within a period

of five (5) years, such person shall be fined not more than One

275 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and shall have his driver's license

suspended until he reaches the age of twenty-one (21) or for two

277 (2) years, whichever is longer.

(e) Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years

279 convicted of a second violation of subsection (1) of this section,

may have the period that his driver's license is suspended reduced

281 if such person receives an in-depth diagnostic assessment, and as

282 a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of

283 treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem and

284 successfully completes treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse

285 problem at a program site certified by the Department of Mental

286 Health. Such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of his

287 driving privileges upon the successful completion of such

288 treatment after a period of six (6) months after such person's

289 driver's license is suspended. Each person who receives a

290 diagnostic assessment shall pay a fee representing the cost of

- 291 such assessment. Each person who participates in a treatment 292 program shall pay a fee representing the cost of such treatment.
- (f) Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years convicted of a third or subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section shall complete treatment of an alcohol and/or drug abuse program at a site certified by the Department of Mental

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Health.

- The court shall have the discretion to rule that a 298 (q) first offense of this subsection by a person under the age of 299 twenty-one (21) years shall be nonadjudicated. Such person shall 300 301 be eligible for nonadjudication only once. The Department of Public Safety shall maintain a confidential registry of all cases 302 303 which are nonadjudicated as provided in this paragraph. 304 who rules that a case is nonadjudicated shall forward such ruling to the Department of Public Safety. Judges and prosecutors 305 involved in implied consent violations shall have access to the 306 confidential registry for the purpose of determining 307 308 nonadjudication eligibility. A record of a person who has been nonadjudicated shall be maintained for five (5) years or until 309 310 such person reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years. Any person whose confidential record has been disclosed in violation of this 311 312 paragraph shall have a civil cause of action against the person 313 and/or agency responsible for such disclosure.
- 314 (4) In addition to the other penalties provided in this
  315 section, every person refusing a law enforcement officer's request
  316 to submit to a chemical test of his breath as provided in this
  317 chapter, or who was unconscious at the time of a chemical test and
  318 refused to consent to the introduction of the results of such test
  319 in any prosecution, shall suffer an additional suspension of
  320 driving privileges as follows:
- The Commissioner of Public Safety or his authorized agent shall suspend the driver's license or permit to drive or deny the issuance of a license or permit to such person as provided for

- 324 first, second and third or subsequent offenders in subsection (2)
- 325 of this section. Such suspension shall be in addition to any
- 326 suspension imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of Section 63-11-23.
- 327 The minimum suspension imposed under this subsection shall not be
- 328 reduced and no prosecutor is authorized to offer a reduction of
- 329 such suspension as part of a plea bargain.
- 330 (5) Every person who operates any motor vehicle in violation
- 331 of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section and who in a
- 332 negligent manner causes the death of another or mutilates,
- 333 disfigures, permanently disables or destroys the tongue, eye, lip,
- 334 nose or any other limb, organ or member of another shall, upon
- 335 conviction, be guilty of a felony and shall be committed to the
- 336 custody of the State Department of Corrections for a period of
- 337 time of not less than five (5) years and not to exceed twenty-five
- 338 (25) years.
- 339 (6) Upon conviction of any violation of subsection (1) of
- 340 this section, the trial judge shall sign in the place provided on
- 341 the traffic ticket, citation or affidavit stating that the person
- 342 arrested either employed an attorney or waived his right to an
- 343 attorney after having been properly advised. If the person
- 344 arrested employed an attorney, the name, address and telephone
- 345 number of the attorney shall be written on the ticket, citation or
- 346 affidavit. The judge shall cause a copy of the traffic ticket,
- 347 citation or affidavit, and any other pertinent documents
- 348 concerning the conviction, to be sent to the Commissioner of
- 349 Public Safety. A copy of the traffic ticket, citation or
- 350 affidavit and any other pertinent documents, having been attested
- 351 as true and correct by the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his
- 352 designee, shall be sufficient proof of the conviction for purposes
- of determining the enhanced penalty for any subsequent convictions
- 354 of violations of subsection (1) of this section.
- 355 (7) Convictions in other states of violations for driving or
- 356 operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating

- liquor or while under the influence of any other substance that
  has impaired the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle
  occurring after July 1, 1992, shall be counted for the purposes of
  determining if a violation of subsection (1) of this section is a
  first, second, third or subsequent offense and the penalty that
  shall be imposed upon conviction for a violation of subsection (1)
- For the purposes of determining how to impose the 364 365 sentence for a second, third or subsequent conviction under this section, the indictment shall not be required to enumerate 366 367 previous convictions. It shall only be necessary that the 368 indictment state the number of times that the defendant has been convicted and sentenced within the past five (5) years under this 369 370 section to determine if an enhanced penalty shall be imposed. amount of fine and imprisonment imposed in previous convictions 371 shall not be considered in calculating offenses to determine a 372 second, third or subsequent offense of this section. 373
- 374 (9) Any person under the legal age to obtain a license to 375 operate a motor vehicle convicted under this section shall not be 376 eligible to receive such license until the person reaches the age 377 of eighteen (18) years.
- 378 (10) Suspension of driving privileges for any person 379 convicted of violations of Section 63-11-30(1) shall run 380 consecutively.
- 381 (11) The court may order the use of any ignition interlock 382 device as provided in Section 63-11-31.
- 383 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-11-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:
- 385 63-11-49. (1) When a vehicle is seized under Section
  386 63-11-30(2)(c) or (d), the arresting officer shall impound the
  387 vehicle and the vehicle shall \* \* \* be forfeited \* \* \* as provided
  388 in Section 63-11-30(2)(c).

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of this section.

389 When a vehicle is forfeited pursuant to a conviction for 390 a third or subsequent offense under Section 63-11-30, the person convicted, if appealing the conviction, may request the trial 391 392 court in its discretion to order a stay of forfeiture pending 393 appeal. 394 (3) Vehicles forfeited pursuant to Section 63-11-30 shall be disposed of as provided in Section 63-11-53. 395 396 397 SECTION 3. Section 63-11-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 398 amended as follows: 63-11-51. \* \* \* 399 Any vehicle seized pursuant to Section 63-11-30(2) or 400 401 63-11-49 which is not forfeited may be released to the owner or lienholder upon receipt of payment for all storage and towing 402 charges incurred by the law enforcement agency in seizing the 403 vehicle. The seizing law enforcement agency shall notify in 404 writing, by first class mail, any known owner or lienholder at the 405 406 owner's or lienholder's last known address that the owner or lienholder may retrieve the vehicle. In the event the owner or 407 408 lienholder does not claim the vehicle within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of the notice, the vehicle shall be sold at 409 410 public auction. The owner of the vehicle or the lienholder shall be considered notified under this section if the notice is 411 deposited in the United States mail and any claim that the notice 412 413 was not in fact received by the addressee shall not affect the sale or disposition of the vehicle. Any vehicle retrieved by a 414 415 lienholder shall not be returned to the person charged with the third or subsequent offense of driving under the influence. 416 SECTION 4. Section 63-11-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 417 418 amended as follows: 63-11-53. (1) All money derived from the seizure and 419 420 forfeiture of vehicles under Sections 63-11-30(2)(c) and (d) and \* \* \* 63-11-49 \* \* \* by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol 421

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shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and deposited in a 422 special fund which is hereby created for use by the Department of 423 Public Safety upon appropriation by the Legislature. Unexpended 424 425 amounts remaining in such special fund at the end of a fiscal year 426 shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in such special fund shall be deposited to the 427 credit of the special fund. All other law enforcement agencies 428 shall establish a special fund which is to be used for law 429 430 enforcement purposes to purchase equipment for the law enforcement agency, and any interest earned on the amount in such special fund 431 432 shall be deposited to the credit of the special fund.

- vehicles that have been forfeited shall be sold at a public

  auction for cash by the law enforcement agency or its agent to the

  highest and best bidder. \* \* \* The proceeds of the sale \* \* \*,

  after deduction of all storage, towing, court costs and expenses

  of liquidation, shall be deposited in the manner described in

  subsection (1) of this section.
- 440 The law enforcement agency may maintain, repair, use and 441 operate for official purposes all vehicles that have been 442 forfeited if the vehicles are free from any interest of a bona 443 fide lienholder, secured party or other party who holds an 444 interest in the nature of a security interest. The agency may purchase the interest of a bona fide lienholder, secured party or 445 446 other party who holds an interest so that the vehicle can be 447 released for its use. If the vehicle is susceptible of titling under the Mississippi Motor Vehicle Title Law, the agency shall be 448 deemed to be the purchaser, and the certificate of title shall be 449 450 issued to it as required by subsection (4) of this section.
- 451 (4) The State Tax Commission shall issue a certificate of 452 title to any person who purchases vehicles under the provisions of 453 this section when a certificate of title is required under the 454 laws of this state.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.