

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2852

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
3 PARKS TO CONFORM TO THE REDUCTION OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-4-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-4-4. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi
9 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, to be composed of
10 five (5) persons appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
11 consent of the Senate, for a term of five (5) years. One (1)
12 person shall be appointed from each congressional district and one
13 (1) from the state at large. The initial terms of the members
14 shall be one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years,
15 respectively. Thereafter, all terms shall be for five (5) years.
16 An appointment to fill a vacancy which arises for reasons other
17 than by expiration of a term of office shall be made from the
18 respective * * * district for the unexpired term only. The
19 members serving on the commission on January 1, 2002, shall
20 continue to serve until the expiration of their terms. When the
21 term of the member from the former Fifth Congressional District
22 expires, then that appointment shall be made from the state at
23 large.

24 (2) The commission shall elect from its membership a
25 chairman who shall preside over meetings and a vice chairman who
26 shall preside in the absence of the chairman or when the chairman
27 shall be excused.



28 (3) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
29 governing times and places for meetings and governing the manner
30 of conducting its business. Each member of the commission shall
31 take the oath prescribed by Section 268 of the Constitution, and
32 shall enter into bond in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars
33 (\$30,000.00) to be approved by the Secretary of State, conditioned
34 according to law, and payable to the State of Mississippi before
35 assuming the duties of office. Any member who shall not attend
36 three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the commission shall be
37 subject to removal by a majority vote of the commission members.

38 (4) The members of the commission shall receive no annual
39 salary but shall receive per diem compensation as authorized by
40 law for each day devoted to the discharge of official duties and
41 shall be entitled to reimbursement for all actual and necessary
42 expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, including
43 mileage as authorized by law.

44 The commission shall be composed of persons with a
45 demonstrated history of involvement in at least one (1) of the
46 matters of jurisdiction of the commission and whose employment and
47 activities are not in conflict. All of the commissioners shall be
48 an active outdoorsman holding a resident hunting or fishing
49 license in at least five (5) of the ten (10) years preceding
50 appointment. A member shall not have a record of conviction of
51 violation of fish or game laws and regulations within five (5)
52 years preceding appointment or a record of any felony conviction.

53 (5) The commission shall have the power to adopt, amend and
54 repeal such regulations and rules as may be necessary for the
55 operation of the department.

56 (6) The commission shall have the power and authority to
57 issue all licenses and permits under the jurisdiction of the
58 department.

59 (7) In the furtherance of its duties and responsibilities,
60 the commission may conduct hearings, gather testimony and perform



61 other functions required to carry out its powers and duties as
62 prescribed by statute.

63 (8) The commission shall have all power for conserving,
64 managing and developing wildlife and fishery resources except for
65 saltwater aquatic life and marine resources under the jurisdiction
66 of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources.

67 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
68 and after its passage.

