

By: Representative Cameron

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 284

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-25-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS AT ANYTIME BEEN CONVICTED IN A
3 COURT OF THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE OR IN ANY FEDERAL COURT OF
4 A FELONY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE
5 CONVICTION OCCURRED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-25-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 19-25-3. A person shall not be eligible to the office of
10 sheriff who shall, at the time of the election, be a defaulter to
11 the state, or any county or municipality thereof, or to the United
12 States. Any person who is not a qualified elector, or who denies
13 the existence of a Supreme Being, shall not be eligible to said
14 office. Any person who has at anytime been convicted in a court
15 of this state or any other state or in any federal court of a
16 felony under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the conviction
17 occurred, shall not be eligible to the office. A sheriff shall be
18 eligible to immediately succeed himself in office.

19 Prior to taking the oath of office and entering into the
20 performance of the duties and obligations of sheriff, or as soon
21 after his election as possible, each sheriff-elect, excluding
22 those who have previously served as sheriff, or have had at least
23 five (5) years' experience as a full-time enforcement officer, or
24 have previously successfully completed a course of training at the
25 Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy or the Jackson
26 Police Academy, shall, at the expense of the county, attend and
27 complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law enforcement
28 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy. Any sheriff



29 exempted from attendance because of previous service as sheriff or
30 having five (5) years' full-time law enforcement experience must
31 have served as sheriff or obtained such experience within a period
32 of ten (10) years prior to the date of his taking the oath of
33 office. Any sheriff exempted from attendance because of
34 successful completion of a course of training at either of the
35 aforementioned academies must have completed such course within
36 five (5) years prior to the date of his taking the oath of office.
37 No sheriff, excluding those specified as being exempt from the
38 initial course in this section, shall until he has attended said
39 academy be entitled to payment of salary after the first one (1)
40 year in office if he fails to attend said academy as herein
41 provided within one (1) year after his taking office. All
42 sheriffs shall, on a periodic basis, attend additional advanced
43 courses in law enforcement in order that they will be properly
44 informed and trained in the modern, technical advances of law
45 enforcement.

46 Prior to July 1, 1973, or as soon thereafter as permitted by
47 vacancies at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy,
48 either the sheriff or one (1) deputy sheriff in each county having
49 two (2) or more full-time deputies shall, at the expense of the
50 county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field
51 of narcotics and dangerous drugs at the Mississippi Law
52 Enforcement Officers' Academy. In the event that a new sheriff is
53 elected who has not previously received such training or at least
54 one (1) of his deputies has not previously received such training,
55 or if for any other reason neither the sheriff nor any of the
56 deputy sheriffs in a county shall have received such training,
57 then the sheriff shall promptly notify the director of the
58 Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Academy and either the
59 sheriff or a deputy sheriff, as soon thereafter as permitted by
60 vacancies at the academy, shall, at the expense of the county,



61 attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of
62 narcotics and dangerous drugs.

63 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
64 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
65 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
66 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
67 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
68 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
69 extended.

70 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
72 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

