

By: Representative Taylor

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 511

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-26-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE MANAGEMENT TRAINING REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY  
3 PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS BE LIMITED TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
4 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OVER THE DAY-TO-DAY  
5 OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED 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, 1998, to serve on a governing board of any community public  
11 water system, except systems operated by municipalities with a  
12 population greater than two thousand five hundred (2,500), and who  
13 has responsibility for direct supervision over the day-to-day  
14 operation of the system, shall attend a minimum of eight (8) hours  
15 of management training within two (2) years following the election  
16 of that board member. Whether a member has responsibility for  
17 direct supervision over the day-to-day operation of the system  
18 shall be determined by the State Department of Health. Any member  
19 failing to complete the management training within two (2) years  
20 after his election shall be subject to removal from the board by  
21 the remaining members. If a board member has undergone training  
22 and is reelected to the board, that board member shall not be  
23 required to attend training as provided by this subsection.

24 (2) The management training shall be organized by the State  
25 Department of Health, in cooperation with the Mississippi Rural  
26 Water Association and other organizations. The management  
27 training shall include information on water system management and  
28 financing, rate setting and structures, operations and



29 maintenance, applicable laws and regulations, ethics, the duties  
30 and responsibilities of a board member and other information  
31 deemed necessary by the department after consultation with the  
32 association and other organizations. The department shall develop  
33 and provide all training materials. The department may charge a  
34 fee not to exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per member to  
35 defray the actual costs of providing the materials and training.  
36 These costs shall be reimbursed to the board member as an expense  
37 of the community public water system.

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

45 (4) The department may make exceptions to and grant  
46 exemptions and variances to the requirements of this section for  
47 good cause shown.

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2003.

