

By: Representative Ellington

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1171

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH A
3 PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF LICENSES AND OTHER
4 DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-15-29. (1) The commission shall assess and collect
9 license fees and taxes as authorized under this chapter.

10 (2) All commercial licenses provided for under this chapter
11 that relate to seafood shall be purchased from May 1 through April
12 30 at the fees provided in this chapter. The licenses shall
13 expire on April 30 following the date of issuance.

14 (3) When an application for an original or renewal license
15 of any kind authorized by this chapter is received by the
16 commission, the commission shall determine whether the vessel or
17 related equipment subject to that license is owned and operated in
18 compliance with applicable federal and state laws. If the
19 commission determines that a vessel or its owner is not in
20 compliance with applicable federal and state laws, then no license
21 shall be issued or renewed for the operation of that vessel for a
22 period of one (1) year. All licenses shall be made available for
23 purchase at any building which is regularly operated by the
24 department or commission on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

25 (4) The commission may authorize any person, other than a
26 salaried employee of the state to issue any license under this
27 chapter which the commission deems appropriate. The authorized
28 person may collect and retain for issuance of the license the sum



29 of One Dollar (\$1.00) in addition to the license fee provided in
30 this chapter. The commission shall establish the qualifications
31 of persons authorized to issue licenses under this section and
32 shall also establish the procedure for the issuance of that
33 license by the authorized person and the procedure for collection
34 of license fees by and from the authorized person.

35 (5) The commission may design, establish, and administer a
36 program to provide for the purchase, by electronic means, of any
37 license, permit, registration or reservation issued by the
38 commission or department. Any actual costs associated to provide
39 these documents electronically may be added to the cost of the
40 electronic program.

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

