

By: Representative Zuber

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 1179

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO ENTER  
3 INTO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA ESTABLISHING  
4 RECIPROCITY AS TO THE USE OF RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES BY CITIZENS  
5 OF EACH STATE SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

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

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

10 49-4-4. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi  
11 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, to be composed of  
12 five (5) persons appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
13 consent of the Senate, for a term of five (5) years. One (1)  
14 person shall be appointed from each congressional district. The  
15 initial terms of the members shall be one (1), two (2), three (3),  
16 four (4) and five (5) years, respectively. Thereafter, all terms  
17 shall be for five (5) years. An appointment to fill a vacancy  
18 which arises for reasons other than by expiration of a term of  
19 office shall be made from the respective congressional district  
20 for the unexpired term only.

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

25 (3) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations  
26 governing times and places for meetings and governing the manner  
27 of conducting its business. Each member of the commission shall  
28 take the oath prescribed by Section 268 of the Constitution, and  
29 shall enter into bond in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars



30 (\$30,000.00) to be approved by the Secretary of State, conditioned  
31 according to law, and payable to the State of Mississippi before  
32 assuming the duties of office. Any member who shall not attend  
33 three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the commission shall be  
34 subject to removal by a majority vote of the commission members.

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

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

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

53 (6) The commission shall have the power and authority to  
54 issue all licenses and permits under the jurisdiction of the  
55 department.

56 (7) In the furtherance of its duties and responsibilities,  
57 the commission may conduct hearings, gather testimony and perform  
58 other functions required to carry out its powers and duties as  
59 prescribed by statute.

60 (8) The commission shall have all power for conserving,  
61 managing and developing wildlife and fishery resources except for



62 saltwater aquatic life and marine resources under the jurisdiction  
63 of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources.

64 (9) The commission may enter into a reciprocal agreement  
65 with the State of Alabama exempting persons sixty-five (65) years  
66 of age or older from state fishing license requirements. The  
67 agreement shall provide that a citizen of either Alabama or  
68 Mississippi who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who  
69 is authorized to fish in either Alabama or Mississippi under each  
70 state's respective statutes or regulations shall be entitled to  
71 fish in both states.

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

