

By: Representative Ishee

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1129

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-2-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REMOVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO
3 HIRE ATTORNEYS; TO REQUIRE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PROVIDE LEGAL
4 COUNSEL TO THE DEPARTMENT; TO TRANSFER THE SUPERVISION OF
5 ATTORNEYS HIRED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-2-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 49-2-21. The Attorney General shall be counsel and attorney
12 for the commission and the Department of Environmental Quality and
13 shall provide such legal services as may be requested. The Office
14 of the Attorney General shall represent the commission and the
15 Department of Environmental Quality in all actions, proceedings
16 and hearings and shall be legal advisor of the commission and the
17 department in all matters relating to the commission and the
18 department.

19 From and after July 1, 2004, the supervision of all attorneys
20 employed by the executive director of the Department of
21 Environmental Quality shall be transferred to the Office of the
22 Attorney General.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after July 1, 2004.