

By: Senator(s) Michel, Dearing, Hyde-Smith, Walley, Chaney, Hewes, Clarke, Mettetal, Brown, Albritton, White, Tollison, Kirby, Browning, Pickering, Morgan, Jackson (15th), Thames, Lee (35th), Nunnelee, Moffatt, Chamberlin, Carmichael, Flowers, Doxey

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2686

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-153, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT RESIDENT VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING A PERIOD OF
3 WAR OR ARMED CONFLICT MAY PURCHASE A LIFETIME LICENSE AT A REDUCED
4 FEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 49-7-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-153. (1) (a) Any resident may purchase a lifetime
9 sportsman hunting and fishing license by filing an application in
10 the office of the department. The license shall qualify the
11 licensee to take all fish, game and fowl, except waterfowl,
12 including deer and turkey, in the manner provided by law. The
13 license shall also permit the licensee to hunt with primitive
14 weapons and bow and arrow, and to fish in the public waters of the
15 state, including the taking of crabs, oysters, shrimp and any
16 saltwater fish authorized to be taken under a recreational
17 license.

18 (b) Any resident who is:

19 (i) A veteran who served in the active Armed
20 Forces of the United States during a period of war or armed
21 conflict and was granted an honorable discharge; or

22 (ii) An active member of the Armed Forces of the
23 United States and has served during a period of war or armed
24 conflict;

25 may purchase a lifetime sportsman hunting and fishing license at
26 fifty percent (50%) of the fee.

27 (c) The commission shall establish proof of veteran
28 status for purchase of a lifetime sportsman license at the reduced
29 fee.

30 (d) For purposes of this section, "armed forces" means
31 the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast
32 Guard.

33 (2) The department may issue a resident lifetime sportsman
34 license at a fee to be determined by the commission at an amount
35 not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for a person
36 thirteen (13) years of age or older and not less than Five Hundred
37 Dollars (\$500.00) for a person under thirteen (13) years of age.
38 All lifetime licenses shall be issued from the office of the
39 department. Each application for a lifetime license must be
40 accompanied by a certified copy of the birth certificate of the
41 individual to be named as the license holder, if the individual is
42 twelve (12) years of age or under.

43 (3) The commission shall establish proof of residency
44 requirements for the purchase of a lifetime license, and shall
45 also establish such restrictions on and regulations for lifetime
46 licenses as it deems necessary and proper. An applicant for a
47 resident lifetime license must have been domiciled in this state
48 for eighteen (18) consecutive months immediately preceding the
49 date of his application for a license. The burden of proving
50 domicile shall be on the applicant.

51 (4) (a) The department may issue a native son or daughter
52 nonresident lifetime sportsman hunting and fishing license. The
53 commission shall establish the fee, but the fee shall not be less
54 than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). The applicant
55 must provide a certified copy of the original birth certificate
56 showing that the applicant was born in Mississippi and/or if the
57 parents' address was in Mississippi at the time of birth as shown
58 on the birth certificate or other documents and/or official
59 documents reflect that one of said parents was on active military

60 service outside the State of Mississippi at the time of said
61 birth. Further, if the birth certificate of each parent reflects
62 that each parent was born in the State of Mississippi, then any
63 child born outside the State of Mississippi of those parents may
64 be issued a nonresident lifetime sportsman license for the above
65 set out fee.

66 (5) Any materially false statement contained in an
67 application for a lifetime license renders void the license issued
68 pursuant to that application, and subjects the applicant to
69 criminal prosecution under Section 49-7-45.

70 (6) Nothing in this section exempts an applicant for a
71 lifetime license from meeting other qualifications or requirements
72 otherwise established by law for the privilege of hunting or
73 fishing.

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