

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2686

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE TERM OF THE BOAT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE TO THREE
3 YEARS; TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
4 REVISE FEES; TO REVISE THE LENGTH OF BOAT CATEGORIES FOR FEES; TO
5 AMEND SECTION 59-21-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE
6 INCORRECT REFERENCE TO UNDOCUMENTED VESSEL; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 59-21-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 59-21-19. (1) The certificate of number shall be
12 pocket-size, approximately two and one-half (2-1/2) inches by
13 three and one-half (3-1/2) inches, and water resistant.

14 (2) Pending the issuance of the original certificate of
15 number, the owner of the vessel may be furnished a temporary
16 certificate of number valid for sixty (60) days from the date of
17 issue. This temporary certificate shall be carried on board when
18 the vessel is being operated.

19 (3) Each applicant for an original or transfer certificate
20 of number, who is entitled to issuance thereof, shall be issued a
21 certificate for a period of three (3) years from the last day of
22 the month of receipt of the original or transfer certificate.
23 This subsection shall not apply to the certificate of number of a
24 livery boat.

25 (4) The certificate of number of a livery boat shall be
26 plainly marked "livery boat." The description of the motor and
27 type of fuel will be omitted from the certificate of number in any
28 case where the motor is not rented with the boat. Original and
29 renewal certificates of number of a livery boat shall be valid for

30 a period of three (3) years and shall expire at midnight on June
31 30 of each triennial.

32 (5) Numbers and certificates of number awarded boats
33 operated by manufacturers and dealers may be transferred from one
34 boat to another. In lieu of the description, the word
35 "manufacturer" or "dealer," as appropriate, will be plainly marked
36 on each certificate. The manufacturer or dealer may have the
37 number awarded printed upon or attached to a removable sign or
38 signs to be temporarily mounted upon or attached to the boat being
39 demonstrated or tested so long as the display meets the
40 requirements of Section 59-21-9.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 59-21-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 59-21-25. (1) Fees for the award of certificates of number
44 for original, transfer, renewal, livery, dealer and duplicate
45 shall be as follows:

- 46 (a) Less than 16 feet.....\$ 24.00
- 47 (b) 16 feet but less than 26 feet.....\$ 42.00
- 48 (c) 26 feet but less than 40 feet..... \$ 74.00
- 49 (d) 40 feet but less than 65 feet.....\$108.00
- 50 (e) 65 feet and over.....\$138.00
- 51 (f) Dealer number.....\$ 60.00
- 52 (g) Duplicate.....\$ 6.00
- 53 (h) Boat inspection fee.....\$ 10.00

54 (2) All fees for numbers and renewal of number shall be
55 payable to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
56 Parks to be deposited by the department in the State Treasury in a
57 special fund to be designated as the Fisheries and Wildlife Fund,
58 which shall be disbursed upon the recommendation of the department
59 as may be appropriated by the Legislature. The State Treasurer
60 shall release to the department such sums as are required to
61 defray all administrative costs of the boat registration fee
62 division of the department and to improve the law enforcement

63 capability of the department on the inland and marine waters of
64 the State of Mississippi and as may be budgeted by the department
65 for the purpose of paying the cost of the administration of this
66 chapter for education on water safety, improvement of water safety
67 and motorboating facilities in the state, and advertising and
68 promoting the waterways of the state. Any and all revenue over
69 and above the actual administrative cost of implementing this act
70 shall be used to fund salaries of additional conservation officers
71 in all eighty-two (82) counties.

72 **SECTION 3.** Section 59-21-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
73 amended as follows:

74 59-21-5. All sailboats and every * * * vessel equipped with
75 propulsion machinery, whether or not such machinery is the
76 principal source of propulsion, using the territorial and
77 navigable waters of the State of Mississippi, and every such
78 vessel owned in the State of Mississippi and using the high seas
79 shall be numbered in accordance with this chapter, except:

80 (a) Foreign vessels temporarily using the navigable
81 waters of the State of Mississippi;

82 (b) Public vessels of the United States;

83 (c) State and municipal vessels used solely for
84 official business and displaying proper visual identification on
85 its hull;

86 (d) Ships' lifeboats;

87 (e) Vessels designated by the appropriate federal
88 authority;

89 (f) Undocumented vessels used exclusively for racing;

90 (g) Undocumented vessels operating under valid
91 temporary certificates of number;

92 (h) Vessels already covered by a number in full force
93 and effect awarded pursuant to federal law, or a federally
94 approved numbering system of another state, provided that such
95 vessels shall not have been within this state for a period in

96 excess of sixty (60) days. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
97 the numbering of any undocumented vessel upon the request of the
98 owner.

99 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
100 and after July 1, 2005.