

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2711

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE FOR A ONE-DAY NONRESIDENT SALTWATER SPORTS FISHING  
3 LICENSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 49-15-313. (1) Any resident between the ages of sixteen  
8 (16) and sixty-five (65) years, as defined in Section 49-7-3,  
9 fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a  
10 saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of Four Dollars  
11 (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of  
12 Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, paraplegic or a  
13 multiple amputee, or who has been adjudged by the Veterans  
14 Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or  
15 has been adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security  
16 Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his  
17 possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in  
18 such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall  
19 have on his person while fishing proof of residency and age or  
20 disability.

21 (2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees  
22 for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the  
23 fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not  
24 be less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00). The commission shall  
25 provide a one-day nonresident saltwater sports fishing license for  
26 a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The commission shall require a  
27 nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing license

28 and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the  
29 nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to  
30 fish in its marine waters.

31 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,  
32 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be  
33 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two  
34 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in  
35 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat  
36 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the  
37 commission. In addition to other requirements for charter license  
38 eligibility, captains must show proof of participation in a  
39 Department of Transportation approved random drug testing program  
40 and proof of liability insurance as a charter boat captain. Crew  
41 members and customers of the licensed vessels shall not be  
42 required to purchase an individual resident or nonresident  
43 saltwater fishing license while sponsored by the licensed vessels.  
44 An operator of a licensed vessel shall be required to report the  
45 number of customers to the department as required by the  
46 commission and the information shall be kept confidential and  
47 shall not be released, except to other fisheries management  
48 agencies or as statistical data. All nonresident vessels engaged  
49 in saltwater sport fishing tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate  
50 of twenty (20) days per calendar year, shall not be required to  
51 purchase an annual license as provided under this subsection.

52 (4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all  
53 recreational methods of finfish harvest.

54 (5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's  
55 license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to  
56 fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt  
57 from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

58 (6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and  
59 retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional  
60 fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

61           (7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and  
62 nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited  
63 into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management  
64 of marine resources.

65           (8) Participants in the Very Special Fishing Olympics are  
66 exempt from this section.

67           (9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater  
68 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without  
69 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

70           (10) The department may exempt participants in an organized  
71 fishing event conducted by a qualified nonprofit charitable,  
72 governmental or civic organization from the requirements of this  
73 section for one (1) day per year if the organization files an  
74 exemption application with the department and the application is  
75 approved by the department.

76           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
77 and after July 1, 2005.