

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2833

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE TERM OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE,
3 FISHERIES AND PARKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 49-4-4. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi
8 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, to be composed of
9 five (5) persons appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
10 consent of the Senate * * *. One (1) person shall be appointed
11 from each congressional district. The initial terms of the
12 members shall be one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five
13 (5) years, respectively. The members of the commission as
14 constituted on January 1, 2006 shall continue to serve until the
15 expiration of their respective terms of office. Appointments made
16 to fill vacancies created by the expiration of members' terms of
17 office after January 1, 2006 shall be for seven (7) years. An
18 appointment to fill a vacancy which arises for reasons other than
19 by expiration of a term of office shall be made from the
20 respective congressional district 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 Mississippi
29 Constitution, and shall enter into bond in the amount of Thirty
30 Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be approved by the Secretary of
31 State, conditioned according to law, and payable to the State of
32 Mississippi before assuming the duties of office. Any member who
33 shall not attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the
34 commission shall be subject to removal by a majority vote of the
35 commission members.

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

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

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

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

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

61 (8) The commission shall have all power for conserving,
62 managing and developing wildlife and fishery resources except for
63 saltwater aquatic life and marine resources under the jurisdiction
64 of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after its passage.