

By: Representative Robinson (63rd)

To: Municipalities;
Conservation and Water
Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1227

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-26-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE MUNICIPAL POPULATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN
3 MUNICIPALITIES THAT ALLOWS COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM BOARD
4 MEMBERS TO BE EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN MANAGEMENT TRAINING; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-26-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 41-26-101. (1) Each member elected or reelected after June
10 30, 1998, to serve on a governing board of any community public
11 water system, except systems operated by municipalities with a
12 population greater than ten thousand (10,000), shall attend a
13 minimum of eight (8) hours of management training within two (2)
14 years following the election of that board member. Any member
15 failing to complete the management training within two (2) years
16 after his election shall be subject to removal from the board by
17 the remaining members. If a board member has undergone training
18 and is reelected to the board, that board member shall not be
19 required to attend training as provided by this subsection.

20 (2) The management training shall be organized by the State
21 Department of Health, in cooperation with the Mississippi Rural
22 Water Association and other organizations. The management
23 training shall include information on water system management and
24 financing, rate setting and structures, operations and
25 maintenance, applicable laws and regulations, ethics, the duties
26 and responsibilities of a board member and other information
27 deemed necessary by the department after consultation with the
28 association and other organizations. The department shall develop

29 and provide all training materials. The department may charge a
30 fee not to exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per member to
31 defray the actual costs of providing the materials and training.
32 These costs shall be reimbursed to the board member as an expense
33 of the community public water system.

34 (3) To avoid board members having to interfere with their
35 jobs or employment, management training sessions may be divided
36 into segments and, to the greatest extent possible, shall be
37 scheduled for evening sessions. The department shall conduct
38 management training on a regional basis and shall use community
39 college or other public facilities for the convenience of board
40 members.

41 (4) The department may make exceptions to and grant
42 exemptions and variances to the requirements of this section for
43 good cause shown.

44 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after July 1, 2007.