

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2039

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-3-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE HIGHWAY  
3 SAFETY PATROL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-3-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 45-3-9. (1) The chief of patrol, directors, inspectors,  
8 assistant inspectors, patrol officers and investigators of the  
9 department shall be selected after an examination as to physical  
10 and mental fitness, knowledge of traffic laws, rules and  
11 regulations of this state, the laws of the state pertaining to  
12 arrest, and the rules and regulations of the Mississippi  
13 Department of Public Safety and Public Service Commission, such  
14 examination to be prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of  
15 appointment they shall be citizens of the United States and the  
16 State of Mississippi, of good moral character, and shall be not  
17 less than twenty-one (21) years of age and shall have:

18 (a) A bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited  
19 college with an overall grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale;

20 (b) Sixty (60) hours and/or an associate degree from an  
21 accredited educational institution with a minimum grade point  
22 average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and two (2) years of continued  
23 satisfactory work experience in the field of law enforcement;

24 (c) Two (2) years minimum active military duty  
25 providing a DD214, two (2) years of continued satisfactory work in  
26 the field of law enforcement and a high school diploma or GED; or



27                   (d) A high school diploma or GED, minimum standard  
28 certification from an accredited law enforcement academy and a  
29 minimum of two (2) years of law enforcement field experience.

30           (2) Sworn agents of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics who  
31 are employed as enforcement troopers shall retain all  
32 compensatory, personal and sick leave accrued pursuant to Sections  
33 25-3-92, 25-3-93 and 25-3-95.

34           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
35 and after July 1, 2010.

