

By: Representatives Criswell, Currie,  
Eubanks, Foster, Hale, Henley, Hopkins,  
Kinkade

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 493

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-25-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT A DEPUTY SHERIFF MUST BE A  
3 QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF THE STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-25-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 19-25-19. Every sheriff shall have power to appoint one or  
8 more deputies to assist him or her in carrying out the duties of  
9 \* \* \* the office of sheriff, every such appointment to be in  
10 writing, to remove them at pleasure, and to fix their  
11 compensation, subject to the budget for the sheriff's office  
12 approved by the county board of supervisors. Such deputies shall  
13 have authority to do all the acts and duties enjoined upon their  
14 principals. Every deputy sheriff, except such as may be appointed  
15 to do a particular act only, before he or she enters on the duties  
16 of office, shall take and subscribe an oath faithfully to execute  
17 the office of deputy sheriff, according to the best of his or her  
18 skill and judgment. The appointment, with the certificate of the



19 oath, shall be filed and preserved in the office of the clerk of  
20 the board of supervisors. All sheriffs shall be liable for the  
21 acts of their deputies, and for money collected by them. The  
22 circuit court, after a notice and a hearing, shall have power to  
23 remove such deputies and also bailiffs, upon a showing that the  
24 public interest will be served thereby. Each deputy sheriff shall  
25 be at least twenty-one (21) years of age \* \* \* and shall not have  
26 been convicted of a felony. \* \* \* Before appointing any person a  
27 deputy sheriff, the sheriff shall determine that the proposed  
28 appointee is of good moral character and is capable of fairly and  
29 impartially enforcing the law of the State of Mississippi.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
31 and after July 1, 2018.

