

By: Representatives Burnett, Faulkner,
Bailey, Cockerham, Denton, Harness, Holloway,
Jackson, Mickens, Straughter, Young

To: Gaming; Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 730

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-115-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THAT A RETAIL LIQUOR STORE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY
3 TO BECOME A LOTTERY RETAILER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-115-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 27-115-55. (1) The Legislature hereby recognizes that to
8 conduct a successful lottery, the corporation must develop and
9 maintain a statewide network of lottery retailers that will serve
10 the public convenience and promote the sale of tickets, while
11 ensuring the integrity of the lottery operations, games and
12 activities.

13 (2) To govern the selection of lottery retailers, the board
14 shall, by administrative rules and regulations, develop a list of
15 objective criteria upon which the selection of lottery retailers
16 shall be based. In developing these criteria, the board shall
17 consider such factors as the applicant's financial responsibility,
18 location and security of the applicant's place of business or



19 activity, integrity, and reputation; however, the board shall not
20 consider political affiliation, activities or monetary
21 contributions to political organizations or candidates for any
22 public office. The criteria shall include, but not be limited to,
23 the following:

24 (a) The applicant shall be current in payment of all
25 taxes, interest and penalties owed to any taxing political
26 subdivision where the lottery retailer will sell lottery tickets.

27 (b) The applicant shall be current in filing all
28 applicable tax returns and in payment of all taxes, interest and
29 penalties owed to the State of Mississippi, excluding items under
30 formal appeal pursuant to applicable statutes, before a license is
31 issued and before each renewal.

32 (c) No person shall be selected as a lottery retailer
33 for the sale of lottery tickets who:

34 (i) Has been convicted of a criminal offense
35 related to the security or integrity of the lottery in this or any
36 other jurisdiction.

37 (ii) Has been convicted of any illegal gambling
38 activity, false statements, false swearing or perjury in this or
39 any other jurisdiction, or convicted of a felony.

40 (iii) Has been found to have violated the
41 provisions of this chapter or any administrative rules and
42 regulations adopted under this chapter, unless either ten (10)



43 years have passed since the violation, or the president and the
44 board find the violation both minor and unintentional in nature.

45 (iv) Is a vendor or an employee or agent of any
46 vendor doing business with the corporation.

47 (v) Resides in the same household as an officer or
48 board member of the corporation.

49 (vi) Has made a statement of material fact to the
50 corporation, knowing such statement to be false.

51 (d) A retail liquor store shall be eligible to apply to
52 become a lottery retailer.

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

