

By: Representative Mettetal

To: Ways and Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 894

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-9-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONCEALED WEAPON LICENSE LAW  
3 FOR THE BENEFIT OF LICENSE APPLICANTS WHO ARE 65 YEARS OF AGE OR  
4 OLDER; TO SET THE LICENSE FEE FOR SUCH APPLICANTS AT TWENTY-FIVE  
5 DOLLARS; TO ALLOW SUCH APPLICANTS TO HAVE THEIR FINGERPRINTS TAKEN  
6 AT ANY OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL, FOR A  
7 MAXIMUM FEE OF FIVE DOLLARS; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH APPLICANTS SHALL  
8 IMMEDIATELY HAVE THEIR FINGERPRINTS PROCESSED, BACKGROUND CHECKS  
9 CONDUCTED, REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
10 OFFICERS MADE, AND THEIR LICENSES ISSUED OR DENIED, AT THE  
11 LOCATION WHERE THE FINGERPRINTS WERE TAKEN; AND FOR RELATED  
12 PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-9-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 45-9-101. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided, the  
17 Department of Public Safety is authorized to issue licenses to  
18 carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers to persons  
19 qualified as provided in this section. Such licenses shall be  
20 valid throughout the state for a period of five (5) years from the  
21 date of issuance. Any person possessing a valid license issued  
22 pursuant to this section may carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
23 concealed revolver.



24           (b) The licensee must carry the license, together with  
25 valid identification, at all times in which the licensee is  
26 carrying a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver and must display  
27 both the license and proper identification upon demand by a law  
28 enforcement officer. A violation of the provisions of this  
29 paragraph (b) shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a  
30 penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and shall be enforceable  
31 by summons.

32           (2) The Department of Public Safety shall issue a license if  
33 the applicant:

34           (a) Is a resident of the state. However, this  
35 residency requirement may be waived if the applicant possesses a  
36 valid permit from another state, is active military personnel  
37 stationed in Mississippi, or is a retired law enforcement officer  
38 establishing residency in the state;

39           (b) (i) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older; or  
40               (ii) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age but  
41 not yet twenty-one (21) years of age and the applicant:

42                       1. Is a member or veteran of the United  
43 States Armed Forces, including National Guard or Reserve; and

44                       2. Holds a valid Mississippi driver's license  
45 or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety;

46           (c) Does not suffer from a physical infirmity which  
47 prevents the safe handling of a stun gun, pistol or revolver;



48           (d) Is not ineligible to possess a firearm by virtue of  
49 having been convicted of a felony in a court of this state, of any  
50 other state, or of the United States without having been pardoned  
51 for same;

52           (e) Does not chronically or habitually abuse controlled  
53 substances to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
54 It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
55 uses controlled substances to the extent that his faculties are  
56 impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or involuntarily  
57 committed to a treatment facility for the abuse of a controlled  
58 substance or been found guilty of a crime under the provisions of  
59 the Uniform Controlled Substances Law or similar laws of any other  
60 state or the United States relating to controlled substances  
61 within a three-year period immediately preceding the date on which  
62 the application is submitted;

63           (f) Does not chronically and habitually use alcoholic  
64 beverages to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
65 It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
66 uses alcoholic beverages to the extent that his normal faculties  
67 are impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or  
68 involuntarily committed as an alcoholic to a treatment facility or  
69 has been convicted of two (2) or more offenses related to the use  
70 of alcohol under the laws of this state or similar laws of any  
71 other state or the United States within the three-year period



immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted;

(g) Desires a legal means to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver to defend himself;

(h) Has not been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or has waited five (5) years from the date of his restoration to capacity by court order;

(i) Has not been voluntarily or involuntarily committed to a mental institution or mental health treatment facility unless he possesses a certificate from a psychiatrist licensed in this state that he has not suffered from disability for a period of five (5) years;

(j) Has not had adjudication of guilt withheld or imposition of sentence suspended on any felony unless three (3) years have elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by the court have been fulfilled;

(k) Is not a fugitive from justice; and

(l) Is not disqualified to possess a weapon based on federal law.

(3) The Department of Public Safety may deny a license if the applicant has been found guilty of one or more crimes of violence constituting a misdemeanor unless three (3) years have elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by the court have been fulfilled or expunction has occurred prior to the date on which the application is submitted, or may revoke a license if



97 the licensee has been found guilty of one or more crimes of  
98 violence within the preceding three (3) years. The department  
99 shall, upon notification by a law enforcement agency or a court  
100 and subsequent written verification, suspend a license or the  
101 processing of an application for a license if the licensee or  
102 applicant is arrested or formally charged with a crime which would  
103 disqualify such person from having a license under this section,  
104 until final disposition of the case. The provisions of subsection  
105 (7) of this section shall apply to any suspension or revocation of  
106 a license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

107 (4) The application shall be completed, under oath, on a  
108 form promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and shall  
109 include only:

110 (a) The name, address, place and date of birth, race,  
111 sex and occupation of the applicant;

112 (b) The driver's license number or social security  
113 number of applicant;

114 (c) Any previous address of the applicant for the two  
115 (2) years preceding the date of the application;

116 (d) A statement that the applicant is in compliance  
117 with criteria contained within subsections (2) and (3) of this  
118 section;

119 (e) A statement that the applicant has been furnished a  
120 copy of this section and is knowledgeable of its provisions;



(f) A conspicuous warning that the application is executed under oath and that a knowingly false answer to any question, or the knowing submission of any false document by the applicant, subjects the applicant to criminal prosecution; and

(g) A statement that the applicant desires a legal means to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver to defend himself.

(5) The applicant shall submit only the following to the Department of Public Safety:

(a) A completed application as described in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) A full-face photograph of the applicant taken within the preceding thirty (30) days in which the head, including hair, in a size as determined by the Department of Public Safety, except that an applicant who is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age must submit a photograph in profile of the applicant;

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph for applicants age sixty-five (65) or older, a nonrefundable license fee of Eighty Dollars (\$80.00). An applicant who is sixty-five (65) years or older, a nonrefundable license fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). Costs for processing the set of fingerprints as required in paragraph (d) of this subsection shall be borne by the applicant; however, the costs for processing the set of fingerprints of a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall not exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00). Honorably retired



146 law enforcement officers, disabled veterans and active duty  
147 members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be exempt  
148 from the payment of the license fee;

149 (d) A full set of fingerprints of the applicant  
150 administered by the Department of Public Safety, and if the  
151 applicant is sixty-five (65) years of age or older, a full set of  
152 fingerprints of the applicants administered at any office of the  
153 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol; and

154 (e) A waiver authorizing the Department of Public  
155 Safety access to any records concerning commitments of the  
156 applicant to any of the treatment facilities or institutions  
157 referred to in subsection (2) and permitting access to all the  
158 applicant's criminal records.

159 (6) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (25) of this  
160 section for an applicant who is sixty-five (65) years of age or  
161 older, the following apply to the issuance of a license under this  
162 section:

163 (a) The Department of Public Safety, upon receipt of  
164 the items listed in subsection (5) of this section, shall forward  
165 the full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate  
166 agencies for state and federal processing.

167 (b) The Department of Public Safety shall forward a  
168 copy of the applicant's application to the sheriff of the  
169 applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the police  
170 chief of the applicant's municipality of residence. The sheriff



of the applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the police chief of the applicant's municipality of residence may, at his discretion, participate in the process by submitting a voluntary report to the Department of Public Safety containing any readily discoverable prior information that he feels may be pertinent to the licensing of any applicant. The reporting shall be made within thirty (30) days after the date he receives the copy of the application. Upon receipt of a response from a sheriff or police chief, such sheriff or police chief shall be reimbursed at a rate set by the department.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall, within forty-five (45) days after the date of receipt of the items listed in subsection (5) of this section:

(i) Issue the license;

(ii) Deny the application based solely on the ground that the applicant fails to qualify under the criteria listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. If the Department of Public Safety denies the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the ground for denial, and the denial shall be subject to the appeal process set forth in subsection (7); or

(iii) Notify the applicant that the department is unable to make a determination regarding the issuance or denial of a license within the forty-five-day period prescribed by this





subsection, and provide an estimate of the amount of time the department will need to make the determination.

(d) In the event a legible set of fingerprints, as determined by the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, cannot be obtained after a minimum of two (2) attempts, the Department of Public Safety shall determine eligibility based upon a name check by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and a Federal Bureau of Investigation name check conducted by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol at the request of the Department of Public Safety.

(7) (a) If the Department of Public Safety denies the issuance of a license, or suspends or revokes a license, the party aggrieved may appeal such denial, suspension or revocation to the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his authorized agent, within thirty (30) days after the aggrieved party receives written notice of such denial, suspension or revocation. The Commissioner of Public Safety, or his duly authorized agent, shall rule upon such appeal within thirty (30) days after the appeal is filed and failure to rule within this thirty-day period shall constitute sustaining such denial, suspension or revocation. Such review shall be conducted pursuant to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt.

(b) If the revocation, suspension or denial of issuance is sustained by the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his duly authorized agent pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection, the



aggrieved party may file within ten (10) days after the rendition of such decision a petition in the circuit or county court of his residence for review of such decision. A hearing for review shall be held and shall proceed before the court without a jury upon the record made at the hearing before the Commissioner of Public Safety or his duly authorized agent. No such party shall be allowed to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver pursuant to the provisions of this section while any such appeal is pending.

(8) The Department of Public Safety shall maintain an automated listing of license holders and such information shall be available online, upon request, at all times, to all law enforcement agencies through the Mississippi Crime Information Center. However, the records of the department relating to applications for licenses to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers and records relating to license holders shall be exempt from the provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, and shall be released only upon order of a court having proper jurisdiction over a petition for release of the record or records.

(9) Within thirty (30) days after the changing of a permanent address, or within thirty (30) days after having a license lost or destroyed, the licensee shall notify the Department of Public Safety in writing of such change or loss. Failure to notify the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal



violation with a penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and shall be enforceable by a summons.

(10) In the event that a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the license was issued shall comply with the provisions of subsection (9) of this section and may obtain a duplicate, or substitute thereof, upon payment of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) to the Department of Public Safety, and furnishing a notarized statement to the department that such license has been lost or destroyed.

(11) A license issued under this section shall be revoked if the licensee becomes ineligible under the criteria set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

(12) (a) No less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date of the license, the Department of Public Safety shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the expiration and a renewal form prescribed by the department. The licensee must renew his license on or before the expiration date by filing with the department the renewal form, a notarized affidavit stating that the licensee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and a full set of fingerprints administered by the Department of Public Safety or the sheriff of the county of residence of the licensee. The first renewal may be processed by mail and the subsequent renewal must be made in person. Thereafter every other renewal may be processed by mail to assure that the applicant must appear



in person every ten (10) years for the purpose of obtaining a new photograph.

(i) Except as provided in this subsection, a renewal fee of Forty Dollars (\$40.00) shall also be submitted along with costs for processing the fingerprints;

(ii) Honorably retired law enforcement officers, disabled veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be exempt from the renewal fee; and

(iii) The renewal fee for a Mississippi resident aged sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall be Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall forward the full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate agencies for state and federal processing. The license shall be renewed upon receipt of the completed renewal application and appropriate payment of fees.

(c) A licensee who fails to file a renewal application on or before its expiration date must renew his license by paying a late fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). No license shall be renewed six (6) months or more after its expiration date, and such license shall be deemed to be permanently expired. A person whose license has been permanently expired may reapply for licensure; however, an application for licensure and fees pursuant to subsection (5) of this section must be submitted, and a background



investigation shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(13) No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize any person to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver into any place of nuisance as defined in Section 95-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972; any police, sheriff or highway patrol station; any detention facility, prison or jail; any courthouse; any courtroom, except that nothing in this section shall preclude a judge from carrying a concealed weapon or determining who will carry a concealed weapon in his courtroom; any polling place; any meeting place of the governing body of any governmental entity; any meeting of the Legislature or a committee thereof; any school, college or professional athletic event not related to firearms; any portion of an establishment, licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, that is primarily devoted to dispensing alcoholic beverages; any portion of an establishment in which beer or light wine is consumed on the premises, that is primarily devoted to such purpose; any elementary or secondary school facility; any junior college, community college, college or university facility unless for the purpose of participating in any authorized firearms-related activity; inside the passenger terminal of any airport, except that no person shall be prohibited from carrying any legal firearm into the terminal if the firearm is encased for shipment, for purposes of checking such firearm as baggage to be lawfully



319 transported on any aircraft; any church or other place of worship,  
320 except as provided in Section 45-9-171; or any place where the  
321 carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law. In addition to  
322 the places enumerated in this subsection, the carrying of a stun  
323 gun, concealed pistol or revolver may be disallowed in any place  
324 in the discretion of the person or entity exercising control over  
325 the physical location of such place by the placing of a written  
326 notice clearly readable at a distance of not less than ten (10)  
327 feet that the "carrying of a pistol or revolver is prohibited."  
328 No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize the  
329 participants in a parade or demonstration for which a permit is  
330 required to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver.

331 (14) A law enforcement officer as defined in Section 45-6-3,  
332 chiefs of police, sheriffs and persons licensed as professional  
333 bondsmen pursuant to Chapter 39, Title 83, Mississippi Code of  
334 1972, shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of this  
335 section. The licensing requirements of this section do not apply  
336 to the carrying by any person of a stun gun, pistol or revolver,  
337 knife, or other deadly weapon that is not concealed as defined in  
338 Section 97-37-1.

339 (15) Any person who knowingly submits a false answer to any  
340 question on an application for a license issued pursuant to this  
341 section, or who knowingly submits a false document when applying  
342 for a license issued pursuant to this section, shall, upon



conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in Section 99-19-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(16) All fees collected by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a special fund hereby created in the State Treasury and shall be used for implementation and administration of this section. After the close of each fiscal year, the balance in this fund shall be certified to the Legislature and then may be used by the Department of Public Safety as directed by the Legislature.

(17) All funds received by a sheriff or police chief pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be deposited into the general fund of the county or municipality, as appropriate, and shall be budgeted to the sheriff's office or police department as appropriate.

(18) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or allow the registration, documentation or providing of serial numbers with regard to any stun gun or firearm.

(19) Any person holding a valid unrevoked and unexpired license to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued in another state shall have such license recognized by this state to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers. The Department of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement with another state if that state requires a written agreement in order to recognize licenses to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued by this state.



(20) The provisions of this section shall be under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(21) For the purposes of this section, the term "stun gun" means a portable device or weapon from which an electric current, impulse, wave or beam may be directed, which current, impulse, wave or beam is designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure, momentarily stun, knock out, cause mental disorientation or paralyze.

(22) (a) From and after January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall promulgate rules and regulations which provide that licenses authorized by this section for honorably retired law enforcement officers and honorably retired correctional officers from the Mississippi Department of Corrections shall (i) include the words "retired law enforcement officer" on the front of the license, and (ii) that the license itself have a red background to distinguish it from other licenses issued under this section.

(b) An honorably retired law enforcement officer and honorably retired correctional officer shall provide the following information to receive the license described in this section: (i) a letter, with the official letterhead of the agency or department from which such officer is retiring, which explains that such officer is honorably retired, and (ii) a letter with the official





letterhead of the agency or department, which explains that such officer has completed a certified law enforcement training academy.

(23) A disabled veteran who seeks to qualify for an exemption under this section shall be required to provide, as proof of service-connected disability, verification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(24) A license under this section is not required for a loaded or unloaded pistol or revolver to be carried upon the person in a sheath, belt holster or shoulder holster or in a purse, handbag, satchel, other similar bag or briefcase or fully enclosed case if the person is not engaged in criminal activity other than a misdemeanor traffic offense, is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a pistol or revolver under state or federal law, and is not in a location prohibited under subsection (13) of this section.

(25) If the applicant is sixty-five (65) years of age or older, then the following actions shall occur immediately at the location where the applicant's fingerprints were taken:

- (a) The applicant's fingerprints shall be processed;
  - (b) The necessary background check shall be conducted;
  - (c) The applicable sheriff and/or police chief shall be notified of the application by telephone or email communication;
- and



417           (d) The Department of Public Safety or the commanding  
418 officer of the location where the applicant's fingerprints were  
419 taken, as the case may be, shall immediately issue or deny the  
420 license, or notify the applicant that a determination regarding  
421 issuance or denial of the license cannot be made at that time and  
422 provide an estimate of the amount of time that will be needed to  
423 make the determination.

424           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
425 and after July 1, 2019.

