

By: Senator(s) Barnett, Jordan, Butler,
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Simmons
(13th)

To: Corrections

SENATE BILL NO. 2696
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-24, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF
3 CORRECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-24, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 47-5-24. (1) The Governor shall appoint a Commissioner of
8 Corrections, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Such
9 commissioner may be removed by the Governor. The commissioner
10 shall be the chief executive, administrative and fiscal officer of
11 the department.

12 (2) The commissioner shall receive an annual salary fixed by
13 the Governor, not to exceed the maximum authorized by law, in
14 addition to all actual, necessary expenses incurred in the
15 discharge of official duties, including mileage as authorized by
16 law.

17 (3) The commissioner shall possess the following minimum
18 qualifications:



19 (a) A master's degree in corrections, criminal justice,
20 guidance, social work, or some related field, and at least six (6)
21 years full-time experience in corrections, including at least
22 three (3) years of correctional management experience; or

23 (b) A bachelor's degree in a field described in
24 subparagraph (a) of this subsection and at least ten (10) years
25 full-time work in corrections, five (5) years of which shall have
26 been in correctional management; or

27 (c) Shall possess * * * relevant experience * * * in
28 the private or public sector.

29 (4) The commissioner shall be required, upon assuming the
30 duties of his office, to execute a good and sufficient bond
31 payable to the State of Mississippi in the sum of Two Hundred
32 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00), conditioned upon an accurate
33 accounting for all monies and property coming into his hands. The
34 commissioner, upon approval by the Governor, may require of other
35 officers, employees and agents of the department a good and
36 sufficient bond in such sum as he may determine, subject to the
37 minimum requirements set forth herein, payable to the State of
38 Mississippi upon like condition. The bonds shall be approved by
39 the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State, and shall be
40 executed by a surety company authorized to do business under the
41 laws of this state. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by
42 the state out of the support and maintenance fund of the
43 department.



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

