

By: Senator(s) Whaley, Suber, Seymour,  
Sparks, Moran, Younger

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2503

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE,  
3 FISHERIES AND PARKS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE  
4 ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE; TO ESTABLISH THAT THE DIRECTOR  
5 MAY SERVE A TERM OF FOUR YEARS AND MAY SEEK REAPPOINTMENT SUBJECT  
6 TO THE APPROVAL AND APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE ADVICE AND  
7 CONSENT OF THE SENATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-4-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 49-4-6. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi  
12 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, whose principal  
13 office shall be located in Jackson, Mississippi.

14 (2) The department shall be headed by an executive director  
15 who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent  
16 of the Senate. The executive director may serve a term of four  
17 (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment at the end of  
18 each term. An executive director seeking reappointment for  
19 another term shall be subject to the approval and appointment of  
20 the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. No person



21 appointed by the Governor to serve as the executive director shall  
22 be eligible to take office unless his name shall have been  
23 submitted to the Mississippi Senate for its advice and consent at  
24 least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled adjournment of the  
25 regular session of the Legislature being held in the calendar year  
26 in which the term of the office of the incumbent shall expire;  
27 however, if for any reason an appointment is not given the advice  
28 and consent of the Mississippi Senate prior to the adjournment of  
29 such regular session, the Governor may submit another appointment  
30 at any time to the Mississippi Senate for its advice and consent  
31 at a regular or extraordinary session of the Legislature. The  
32 foregoing prohibition shall not apply when a vacancy shall occur  
33 by death or resignation of the incumbent. The commission shall  
34 submit to the Governor three (3) qualified nominees for the  
35 position of executive director. The Governor shall appoint the  
36 executive director from the list of qualified nominees submitted  
37 with the advice and consent of the Senate. The executive director  
38 may assign those powers and duties as deemed appropriate to carry  
39 out the department's lawful functions. Upon recommendation by the  
40 Governor to the commission, the executive director may be removed  
41 from office only by both a majority vote of the membership of the  
42 commission and the Governor's approval of the removal. To remove  
43 the executive director the commission must determine on sound  
44 evidence that there is good cause for removal such as willful  
45 dereliction in carrying out the duties of executive director,



46 obvious malfeasance in his actions as executive director or  
47 conviction of any criminal act. After the determination is made  
48 by the commission that the executive director should be removed  
49 from office, the commission shall notify the Governor of its  
50 determination and the Governor must approve that determination  
51 before the executive director is actually removed from office.

52 (3) The executive director shall appoint heads, who will  
53 serve at the pleasure of the executive director.

54 (4) The executive director shall have the authority to  
55 organize the department as deemed appropriate to carry out the  
56 responsibilities of the department. The organizational charts of  
57 the department shall be presented annually with the budget request  
58 of the Governor for review by the Legislature.

59 (5) The executive director shall develop and implement a  
60 merit promotion system for all sworn law enforcement officers.  
61 Promotion to higher rank shall be based on an individual's merit  
62 and length of service. The executive director shall implement the  
63 merit promotion system before July 1, 1995.

64 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
65 and after July 1, 2022.

