

By: Representatives Kinkade, Morgan, Mickens To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 516

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-1-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DECREASE THE MINIMUM YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
3 TO BE APPOINTED A CONSERVATION OFFICER FROM FIVE YEARS TO TWO
4 YEARS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 49-1-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-1-15. (1) All appointments of conservation officers
9 shall be under rules adopted and promulgated by the commission.
10 No person shall be appointed from and after July 1, 2001, unless
11 he meets the following requirements:

12 (a) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and

13 (b) Has successfully completed sixty-four (64) semester
14 hours at an accredited community college or university or has an
15 associate degree from an accredited community college or has
16 passed the Law Enforcement Academy and has at least * * * two
17 (* * * 2) years experience in law enforcement.

18 (2) Each applicant, prior to entering into performance of
19 his duties, at the expense of the department, shall attend and



20 complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law enforcement
21 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy or
22 other training academy whose curriculum complies with requirements
23 of the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.
24 Conservation officers shall, on a periodic basis, be required to
25 successfully complete additional advanced courses in law
26 enforcement in order that they will be properly improved and
27 trained in the modern, technical advances of law enforcement.

28 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
29 and after July 1, 2023.

