

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Tate, Hill, Suber,
Younger, McLendon

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2534
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-4-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE A FRESHWATER FISHING GUIDE OR SERVICE THAT USES A BOAT TO
3 OBTAIN A FISHING GUIDE BOAT LICENSE AND DECAL; TO PROVIDE THE FEE
4 FOR SUCH LICENSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-4-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-4-39. (1) As used in this section:

9 (a) "Boat" means a vessel used by a guide or outfitter
10 for taking paying customers on recreational freshwater fishing
11 excursions.

12 (b) "Guide" means a person who advises or shows the way
13 to others on a boat.

14 (c) "Outfitter" means an establishment that sells
15 freshwater fishing services.

16 (d) "Captain" or "skipper" means a person who is at the
17 helm, controls or steering of a boat.

18 (e) "Boat mate" and "crew" mean one or more employees
19 assisting the guide, outfitter, captain or skipper on a boat.



20 (2) The commission may regulate hunting, fishing and
21 wildlife viewing, guide and outfitter services. The commission
22 shall have the following powers and duties:

23 (a) Prescribe the form and type of licenses;

24 (b) Prescribe an annual distinguishable decal for each
25 boat;

26 (* * *c) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
27 establish fees for the types of licenses; the fee for guide and
28 outfitter services annual licenses * * * shall not be less than
29 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for residents and shall not be less
30 than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for nonresidents; * * *

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32 (d) Require one-year proof of residency and a valid
33 sportsman's license for residents;

34 (e) Require a valid nonresident fishing license for
35 nonresidents;

36 (f) Require First Aid/CPR certification; and

37 (g) Exercise all powers to make regulations for
38 enforcement and safety of such services.

39 (3) A fishing guide, outfitter, skipper or captain that
40 uses a boat to provide fishing guide services shall obtain an
41 annual boat license and decal for a fee of at least Twenty-five
42 Dollars (\$25.00). In order to obtain a boat license and decal, an
43 applicant must register the boat being used with the department
44 and provide to the department a copy of the driver's license of



45 the guide, outfitter, skipper or captain and proof of liability
46 insurance and such other information as the department may require
47 by regulation.

48 (4) A violation of this section or any regulation created by
49 the commission exercising its powers to regulate safety and
50 services is a Class II violation and is punishable as provided in
51 Section 49-7-143.

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

