

By: Senator(s) Whaley

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2556
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-39-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE GEOGRAPHIC STANDARDS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF
3 TRUSTEES OF THE MISSISSIPPI OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP TRUST FUND; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-39-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-39-5. (1) There is established the Board of Trustees of
9 the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, which shall
10 consist of the following members:

11 (a) Four (4) members appointed by the Governor * * *
12 from geographically diverse areas;

13 (b) Three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant
14 Governor * * * from geographically diverse areas;

15 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Soil and
16 Water Conservation Commission, as an ex officio, nonvoting member;

17 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
18 Department of Marine Resources, as an ex officio, nonvoting
19 member;



20 (e) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
21 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as an ex officio,
22 nonvoting member;

23 (f) The Secretary of State, as an ex officio, nonvoting
24 member;

25 (g) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, as an
26 ex officio, nonvoting member;

27 (h) The Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations
28 Committees, as ex officio, nonvoting members;

29 (i) The Chairs of the Senate Finance Committee and
30 House Ways and Means Committee, as ex officio, nonvoting members;
31 and

32 (j) The Chairs of the Senate and House Wildlife,
33 Fisheries and Parks Committees, as ex officio, nonvoting members.

34 One (1) of the members to be appointed by the Governor shall
35 be appointed only after consideration of recommendations for those
36 appointments made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
37 to the Governor. One (1) of the members to be appointed by the
38 Lieutenant Governor shall be appointed only after consideration of
39 recommendations for those appointments made by the Speaker of the
40 House of Representatives to the Lieutenant Governor.

41 (2) The members of the board appointed by the Governor and
42 Lieutenant Governor shall be appointed from the following private
43 sectors: forestry, conservation, agriculture, business, marine
44 resources, hunting or fishing. Such members shall be and shall



45 remain Mississippi residents during their tenure on the board and
46 shall possess a demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to public
47 lands, land conservation and outdoor recreation. These seven (7)
48 appointments shall be subject to the advice and consent of the
49 Mississippi State Senate.

50 (3) (a) Two (2) persons initially appointed by the Governor
51 and two (2) persons initially appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
52 shall serve terms ending June 30, 2025. The other two (2) persons
53 initially appointed by the Governor and the remaining person
54 initially appointed by the Lieutenant Governor shall serve terms
55 ending June 30, 2026.

56 After the expiration of the initial terms, each such
57 appointment shall be for a term of four (4) years from the
58 expiration of the previous term.

59 (b) A majority of the voting members of the board shall
60 constitute a quorum for the conduct of meetings, and all actions
61 of the board shall require a majority vote of the voting members
62 of the board.

63 (c) The board shall annually elect one (1) voting
64 member to serve as chairman and one (1) voting member to serve as
65 vice chairman. The vice chairman shall act as chairman in the
66 absence or disability of the chairman, or if there is a vacancy in
67 the office of chairman.

68 (4) The members of the board appointed by the Governor and
69 Lieutenant Governor shall receive a per diem as provided in



70 Section 25-3-69, plus travel and necessary expenses incidental to
71 the attendance at each board meeting, including mileage, as
72 provided in Section 25-3-41.

73 (5) No board member shall use his official position to
74 obtain, or attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for himself other
75 than that compensation provided for by law, or to obtain, or
76 attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for any relative or any
77 business with which he is associated, as provided in Section
78 25-4-105.

79 (6) The board shall not approve any funding to any entity of
80 which a voting member of the board is an executive, member or
81 employee.

82 (7) The Department of Finance and Administration shall
83 provide the office space, staff and other support necessary for
84 the board to perform its duties.

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

