

By: Representative Horne (By Request)

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 786

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 51-5-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO  
3 EXEMPT PERSONS 65 OR OLDER AND PERSONS WITH AT LEAST 20 YEARS OF  
4 EXPERIENCE FROM THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSE  
5 RENEWAL AS A WATER WELL CONTRACTOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 51-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 51-5-5. (1) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter,  
10 the commission shall have, but shall not be limited to, the  
11 following powers:

12 (a) Make reasonable rules and regulations for the  
13 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

14 (b) Prepare required forms and establish other  
15 procedures to govern the submission of applications, reports, and  
16 other information authorized to be sent the commission as required  
17 by this chapter.

18 (c) Prepare and give reasonable oral and/or written  
19 examinations for license applicants.



20 (d) Deposit all fees in a special fund for the  
21 implementation of this chapter.

22 (e) Enter upon and be given access to any premises for  
23 the purpose of inspecting water wells.

24 (f) Require and approve the completion of continuing  
25 education units for license renewal applicants. The commission  
26 shall provide exemptions from continuing education units for (i)  
27 persons sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (ii) persons  
28 with at least twenty (20) years of experience as a water well  
29 contractor in the State of Mississippi.

30 (2) If the commission finds that compliance with all the  
31 requirements of this chapter would result in undue hardship, an  
32 exemption from any one or more of such requirements may be granted  
33 by the commission to the extent necessary to ameliorate such undue  
34 hardship and to the extent such exemption can be granted without  
35 impairing the intent and purpose of this chapter.

36 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
37 and after July 1, 2024.

