

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Gaming

SENATE BILL NO. 2425

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 67-1-71, 87-1-5, 97-33-1, 97-33-7,
2 97-33-17, 97-33-25 AND 97-33-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
3 AUTHORIZE GAMING TO BE CONDUCTED ON VESSELS AS DEFINED IN SECTION
4 27-109-1 WHENEVER SUCH VESSEL IS ON THE PEARL RIVER OR AN
5 ADJOINING BODY OF WATER WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF A
6 MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF 145,000 OR MORE ACCORDING TO THE
7 MOST RECENT FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 67-1-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 67-1-71. The department may revoke or suspend any permit
12 issued by it for a violation by the permittee of any of the
13 provisions of this article or of the regulations promulgated under
14 it by the department.

15 Permits must be revoked or suspended for the following
16 causes:

17 (a) Conviction of the permittee for the violation of
18 any of the provisions of this article;



19 (b) Willful failure or refusal by any permittee to
20 comply with any of the provisions of this article or of any rule
21 or regulation adopted pursuant thereto;

22 (c) The making of any materially false statement in any
23 application for a permit;

24 (d) Conviction of one or more of the clerks, agents or
25 employees of the permittee, of any violation of this article upon
26 the premises covered by such permit within a period of time as
27 designated by the rules or regulations of the department;

28 (e) The possession on the premises of any retail
29 permittee of any alcoholic beverages upon which the tax has not
30 been paid;

31 (f) The willful failure of any permittee to keep the
32 records or make the reports required by this article, or to allow
33 an inspection of such records by any duly authorized person;

34 (g) The suspension or revocation of a permit issued to
35 the permittee by the federal government, or conviction of
36 violating any federal law relating to alcoholic beverages;

37 (h) The failure to furnish any bond required by Section
38 27-71-21 within fifteen (15) days after notice from the
39 department; and

40 (i) The conducting of any form of illegal gambling on
41 the premises of any permittee or on any premises connected
42 therewith or the presence on any such premises of any gambling
43 device with the knowledge of the permittee.



44 The provisions of paragraph (i) of this section shall not
45 apply to gambling or the presence of any gambling devices, with
46 knowledge of the permittee, on board a cruise vessel in the waters
47 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State
48 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in
49 the State of Mississippi, or on any vessel as defined in Section
50 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or
51 navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi
52 River, or on any vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever
53 such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water
54 within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of
55 one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the
56 latest federal decennial census. The department may, in its
57 discretion, issue on-premises retailer's permits to a common
58 carrier of the nature described in this paragraph.

59 The provisions of paragraph (i) of this section shall not
60 apply to the operation of any game or lottery authorized by Title
61 27, Chapter 115.

62 No permit shall be suspended or revoked until after the
63 permittee has been provided reasonable notice of the charges
64 against him for which suspension or revocation is sought and the
65 opportunity to a hearing before the Board of Tax Appeals to
66 contest such charges and the suspension or revocation proposed.
67 Opportunity to a hearing is provided without an actual hearing if
68 the permittee, after receiving reasonable notice, including notice



69 of his right to a hearing, fails to timely request a hearing. The
70 permittee may also at any time waive his rights to reasonable
71 notice and/or to the opportunity to a hearing by agreeing to a
72 suspension or revocation offered by the department.

73 Notwithstanding the requirement above that, a permit may not
74 be suspended without notice and opportunity to a hearing, sales of
75 alcoholic beverages by a permittee under a permit for which the
76 bond under Section 27-71-21 has been cancelled shall be suspended
77 from and after issuance of the notice provided in paragraph (h)
78 above and shall continue to be suspended until the bond is
79 reinstated, a new bond is posted or sufficient cash or securities
80 as provided under Section 27-71-21 are deposited with the State
81 Treasurer for this permit.

82 In addition to the causes specified in this section and other
83 provisions of this article, the department shall be authorized to
84 suspend the permit of any permit holder for being out of
85 compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section
86 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a permit for being out
87 of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the
88 reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that
89 purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or
90 reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, shall be
91 governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be.
92 If there is any conflict between any provision of Section
93 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision of this article, the



provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

SECTION 2. Section 87-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

87-1-5. If any person, by playing at any game whatever, or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do play at any game, or by betting on any horse race or cockfight, or at any other sport or pastime, or by any wager whatever, shall lose any money, property, or other valuable thing, real or personal, and shall pay or deliver the same or any part thereof, the person so losing and paying or delivering the same, or his wife or children, may sue for and recover such money, property, or other valuable thing so lost and paid or delivered, or any part thereof, from the person knowingly receiving the same, with costs. However, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay;

(b) In a structure located in whole or in part on shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have



voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

(i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under paragraph (a) of this section;

(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

(iii) In the case of a structure that is located in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the structure is located consists of a parcel of real property, easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel,



nor shall the footage contained within the easements and rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances specified in subparagraph (ii) * * *;

(c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River; * * *

(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 3. Section 97-33-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-1. Except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-8, if any person shall encourage, promote or play at any game, play or amusement, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs, for money or other valuable thing, or shall wager or bet, promote or encourage the wagering or betting of any money or other valuable things, upon any game, play, amusement, cockfight, Indian ball play or duel, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs, or upon the result of any election, event or contingency whatever, upon conviction thereof, he shall be fined in a sum not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00); and, unless such fine and costs be



168 immediately paid, shall be imprisoned for any period not more than
169 ninety (90) days. However, this section shall not apply to
170 betting, gaming or wagering:

171 (a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1
172 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of
173 Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south
174 of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of
175 Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay,
176 Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters
177 of the county in which the port is located have not voted to
178 prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as
179 provided in Section 19-3-79;

180 (b) In a structure located, in whole or in part, on
181 shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State
182 of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have
183 voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels
184 as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

185 (i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled
186 by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section
187 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under
188 paragraph (a) of this section;

189 (ii) The part of the structure in which licensed
190 gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area
191 which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the
192 mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters



193 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State
194 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in
195 the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St.
196 Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to
197 Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary
198 of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

199 (iii) In the case of a structure that is located
200 in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which
201 licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to
202 state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the
203 State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis
204 Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the
205 structure is located consists of a parcel of real property,
206 easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall
207 not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel,
208 nor shall the footage contained within the easements and
209 rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances
210 specified in subparagraph (ii);

211 (c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever
212 such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within
213 any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the
214 registered voters of the county in which the port is located have
215 not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels
216 as provided in Section 19-3-79; * * *



(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 4. Section 97-33-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-8, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm, copartnership or corporation to have in possession, own, control, display, or operate any cane rack, knife rack, artful dodger, punch board, roll down, merchandise wheel, slot machine, pinball machine, or similar device or devices. Provided, however, that this section shall not be so construed as to make unlawful the ownership, possession, control, display or operation of any antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12, or any music machine or bona fide automatic vending machine where the purchaser receives exactly the same quantity of merchandise on each operation of said machine. Any slot machine other than an antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 which delivers, or is so constructed as that by operation thereof it will deliver to the operator thereof anything of value in varying quantities, in addition to the merchandise received, and any slot machine other



242 than an antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 that
243 is constructed in such manner as that slugs, tokens, coins or
244 similar devices are, or may be, used and delivered to the operator
245 thereof in addition to merchandise of any sort contained in such
246 machine, is hereby declared to be a gambling device, and shall be
247 deemed unlawful under the provisions of this section. Provided,
248 however, that pinball machines which do not return to the operator
249 or player thereof anything but free additional games or plays
250 shall not be deemed to be gambling devices, and neither this
251 section nor any other law shall be construed to prohibit same.

252 (2) No property right shall exist in any person, natural or
253 artificial, or be vested in such person, in any or all of the
254 devices described herein that are not exempted from the provisions
255 of this section; and all such devices are hereby declared to be at
256 all times subject to confiscation and destruction, and their
257 possession shall be unlawful, except when in the possession of
258 officers carrying out the provisions of this section. It shall be
259 the duty of all law enforcing officers to seize and immediately
260 destroy all such machines and devices.

261 (3) A first violation of the provisions of this section
262 shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and the party offending shall, upon
263 conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars
264 (\$500.00), or imprisoned not exceeding three (3) months, or both,
265 in the discretion of the court. In the event of a second
266 conviction for a violation of any of the provisions of this



section, the party offending shall be subject to a sentence of not less than six (6) months in the county jail, nor more than two (2) years in the State Penitentiary, in the discretion of the trial court.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, it shall not be unlawful to operate any equipment or device described in subsection (1) of this section or any gaming, gambling or similar device or devices by whatever name called while:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) In a structure located, in whole or in part, on shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

(i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section



75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

(iii) In the case of a structure that is located in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the structure is located consists of a parcel of real property, easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel, nor shall the footage contained within the easements and rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances specified in subparagraph (ii);



(c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; * * *

(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, it shall not be unlawful (a) to own, possess, repair or control any gambling device, machine or equipment in a licensed gaming establishment or on the business premises appurtenant to any such licensed gaming establishment during any period of time in which such licensed gaming establishment is being constructed, repaired, maintained or operated in this state; (b) to install any gambling device, machine or equipment in any licensed gaming establishment; (c) to possess or control any gambling device, machine or equipment during the process of procuring or transporting such device, machine or equipment for installation on any such licensed gaming establishment; or (d) to store in a



warehouse or other storage facility any gambling device, machine, equipment, or part thereof, regardless of whether the county or municipality in which the warehouse or storage facility is located has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels, provided that such device, machine or equipment is operated only in a county or municipality that has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels. Any gambling device, machine or equipment that is owned, possessed, controlled, installed, procured, repaired, transported or stored in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to confiscation, seizure or destruction, and any person, firm, partnership or corporation which owns, possesses, controls, installs, procures, repairs, transports or stores any gambling device, machine or equipment in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to any prosecution or penalty under this section. Any person constructing or repairing such cruise vessels or vessels within a municipality shall comply with all municipal ordinances protecting the general health or safety of the residents of the municipality.

SECTION 5. Section 97-33-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-17. (1) All monies exhibited for the purpose of betting or alluring persons to bet at any game, and all monies staked or betted, shall be liable to seizure by any sheriff, constable, or police officer, together with all the appliances used or kept for use in gambling, or by any other person; and all



the monies so seized shall be accounted for by the person making the seizure, and all appliances seized shall be destroyed; provided, however, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering on:

(a) A cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) In a structure located in whole or in part on shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

(i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the



mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

(iii) In the case of a structure that is located in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the structure is located consists of a parcel of real property, easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel, nor shall the footage contained within the easements and rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances specified in subparagraph (ii) * * *;

(c) A vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; * * *



(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to any gambling device, machine or equipment that is owned, possessed, controlled, installed, procured, repaired or transported in accordance with subsection (4) of Section 97-33-7.

SECTION 6. Section 97-33-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-25. If any person shall sell or buy, either directly or indirectly, any chance in what is commonly called pool, upon any event whatever, or shall in any manner engage in such business or pastime, he shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or shall be imprisoned in the county jail not more than ninety (90) days; provided, however, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay,



Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) In a structure located in whole or in part on shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

(i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under paragraph (a) of this section;

(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

(iii) In the case of a structure that is located in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which



licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the structure is located consists of a parcel of real property, easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel, nor shall the footage contained within the easements and rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances specified in subparagraph (ii) * * *;

(c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; * * *

(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 7. Section 97-33-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



491 97-33-27. If any person shall bet on a horse race or a yacht
492 race or on a shooting match, he shall be fined not more than Five
493 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and, unless the fine and costs be
494 immediately paid, he shall be imprisoned in the county jail not
495 more than ninety (90) days; provided, however, this section shall
496 not apply to betting, gaming or wagering:

497 (a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1
498 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of
499 Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south
500 of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of
501 Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay,
502 Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters
503 of the county in which the port is located have not voted to
504 prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as
505 provided in Section 19-3-79;

506 (b) In a structure located in whole or in part on shore
507 in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of
508 Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have
509 voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels
510 as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

511 (i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled
512 by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section
513 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under
514 paragraph (a) of this section;



(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

(iii) In the case of a structure that is located in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the structure is located consists of a parcel of real property, easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel, nor shall the footage contained within the easements and rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances specified in subparagraph (ii) * * *;

(c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the



registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79; * * *

(d) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Pearl River or an adjoining body of water within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population of one hundred forty-five thousand (145,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census; or

(* * *e) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

