

By: Senator(s) Polk

To: Finance

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2845

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 67-1-71 AND 67-3-29, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE SUSPENSION OF A PERMIT TO SELL
3 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BEER, LIGHT WINES OR LIGHT SPIRIT PRODUCTS
4 FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES, IF THE PREMISES HAVE BEEN THE
5 SITE OF TWO DEATHS FROM VIOLENT CAUSES, AS DETERMINED FROM THE
6 POLICE REPORT, DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION, OR WITHIN ONE HOUR
7 OF CLOSING, WITHIN 365 DAYS OF ONE ANOTHER; TO REQUIRE THE
8 REVOCATION OF THE PERMIT IF A THIRD SUCH DEATH SHALL HAVE BEEN
9 COMMITTED ON THE PREMISES WITHIN 365 DAYS OF REINSTATEMENT OF THE
10 PERMIT AFTER ITS SUSPENSION UNDER THIS ACT; TO PROHIBIT THE
11 PREMISES THAT WERE THE SUBJECT OF A REVOKED PERMIT FROM BEING
12 ISSUED AN ON-PREMISES RETAILER'S PERMIT, REGARDLESS OF THE
13 IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT, FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF
14 REVOCATION; TO PROHIBIT A PERSON OR ENTITY WHOSE PERMIT HAS BEEN
15 REVOKED FROM OBTAINING AN ON-PREMISES RETAILER'S PERMIT FOR ANY
16 LOCATION AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 67-1-57 AND
17 67-3-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED
18 PURPOSES.

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

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

22 67-1-71. The department may revoke or suspend any permit
23 issued by it for a violation by the permittee of any of the
24 provisions of this article or of the regulations promulgated under
25 it by the department.



Permits must be revoked or suspended for the following causes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



51 (i) The conducting of any form of illegal gambling on
52 the premises of any permittee or on any premises connected
53 therewith or the presence on any such premises of any gambling
54 device with the knowledge of the permittee * * *; and

55 (j) The premises covered by an on-premises retailer's
56 permit, or adjacent areas on the same property, including, but not
57 limited to, lawns and parking lots, having been the site of two
58 (2) deaths from violent causes during the hours of operation, or
59 within one (1) hour of closing, within three hundred sixty-five
60 (365) days of one another, in which case the permit shall be
61 suspended, or a third such death within three hundred sixty-five
62 (365) days of permit reinstatement after its suspension under this
63 paragraph (j), in which case the permit shall be revoked and no
64 such permit may be issued for the premises, regardless of the
65 identity of the applicant, for one (1) year from the date of
66 revocation. A person or entity whose permit has been revoked
67 under this paragraph (j), including any person who was an officer
68 or director of an entity whose permit was revoked, and including
69 any entity with an officer or director whose permit was revoked,
70 either individually or as an officer or director of an entity, may
71 not obtain an on-premises retailer's permit for any location at
72 any time in the future. For purposes of this paragraph, whether a
73 death is from violent causes shall be determined from the details
74 of the police report.



75 The provisions of paragraph (i) of this section shall not
76 apply to gambling or the presence of any gambling devices, with
77 knowledge of the permittee, on board a cruise vessel in the waters
78 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State
79 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in
80 the State of Mississippi, or on any vessel as defined in Section
81 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is on the Mississippi River or
82 navigable waters within any county bordering on the Mississippi
83 River. The department may, in its discretion, issue on-premises
84 retailer's permits to a common carrier of the nature described in
85 this paragraph.

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

89 No permit shall be suspended or revoked until after the
90 permittee has been provided reasonable notice of the charges
91 against him for which suspension or revocation is sought and the
92 opportunity to a hearing before the Board of Tax Appeals to
93 contest such charges and the suspension or revocation proposed.
94 Opportunity to a hearing is provided without an actual hearing if
95 the permittee, after receiving reasonable notice, including notice
96 of his right to a hearing, fails to timely request a hearing. The
97 permittee may also at any time waive his rights to reasonable
98 notice and/or to the opportunity to a hearing by agreeing to a
99 suspension or revocation offered by the department.



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

In addition to the causes specified in this section and other provisions of this article, the department shall be authorized to suspend the permit of any permit holder for being out of compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a permit for being out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. If there is any conflict between any provision of Section 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 67-3-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



67-3-29. (1) The commissioner, or a hearing officer or the board of review, as designated by the commissioner, after a show cause hearing, shall revoke or suspend any permit granted by authority of this chapter to any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or the revenue laws of this state relating to engaging in transporting, storing, selling, distributing, possessing, receiving or manufacturing of wines or beers, or any person who shall hereafter be convicted of the unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor, or any person who shall allow or permit any form of illegal gambling or immorality on the premises described in such permit. The commissioner shall not revoke or suspend a permit of a retailer for the sale of light wine, light spirit product or beer to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years until there has been a conviction of the permit holder or an employee of the permit holder for such violation.

(2) If any person exercising any privilege taxable under the provisions of Chapter 71 of Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall willfully neglect or refuse to comply with the provisions of such chapter, or any rules or regulations promulgated by the commissioner under authority of such chapter, or the provisions of this chapter, including maintaining the qualifications of an applicant under Section 67-3-19, during the permit period, the commissioner shall be authorized to revoke or suspend the permit theretofore issued to the person. Any person whose permit shall



have been revoked by the commissioner shall be thereafter prohibited from exercising any privilege under the provisions of Chapter 71 of Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period of two (2) years from the date of the revocation. The commissioner may, however, for good cause shown, grant a new permit upon such conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. Any person whose permit shall have been suspended by the commissioner shall be prohibited from exercising any privilege under the provisions of Chapter 71 of Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972, during the period of the suspension. Failure of the person to comply with the terms of the suspension shall be cause for revocation of his permit, in addition to the other penalties provided by law.

(3) In addition to the reasons specified in this section and other provisions of this chapter, the commissioner shall be authorized to suspend the permit of any permit holder for being out of compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a permit for being out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a permit suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or Section 93-11-163, as the case may be. If there is any conflict between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or Section 93-11-163 and any provision of this chapter,



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

(4) In the case of establishments selling beer, light wines or light spirit products for consumption on the premises, the commissioner shall suspend the permit of any permit holder whose premises, or adjacent areas on the same property, including, but not limited to, lawns and parking lots, have been the site of two (2) deaths from violent causes during the hours of operation, or within one (1) hour of closing, within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of one another. If a third such death shall have occurred on the premises, or adjacent areas on the same property, including, but not limited to, lawns and parking lots, within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of reinstatement of the permit after its suspension under this subsection, the commissioner shall revoke the permit, and no such permit may be issued for the premises, regardless of the identity of the applicant, for one (1) year from the date of revocation. A person or entity whose permit has been revoked under this subsection (4), including any person who was an officer or director of an entity whose permit was revoked, and including any entity with an officer or director whose permit was revoked, either individually or as an officer or director of an entity, may not obtain an on-premises retailer's permit for any location at any time in the future. For purposes of this subsection, whether a death is from violent causes shall be determined from the details of the police report.



199 **SECTION 3.** Section 67-1-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
200 amended as follows:

201 67-1-57. Before a permit is issued the department shall
202 satisfy itself:

203 (a) That the applicant, if an individual, or if a
204 partnership, each of the members of the partnership, or if a
205 corporation, each of its principal officers and directors, or if a
206 limited liability company, each member of the limited liability
207 company, is of good moral character and, in addition, enjoys a
208 reputation of being a peaceable, law-abiding citizen of the
209 community in which he resides, and is generally fit for the trust
210 to be reposed in him, is not less than twenty-one (21) years of
211 age, and has not been convicted of a felony in any state or
212 federal court.

213 (b) That, except in the case of an application for a
214 solicitor's permit, the applicant is the true and actual owner of
215 the business for which the permit is desired, and that he intends
216 to carry on the business authorized for himself and not as the
217 agent of any other person, and that he intends to superintend in
218 person the management of the business or that he will designate a
219 manager to manage the business for him. All managers must be
220 approved by the department prior to completing any managerial
221 tasks on behalf of the permittee and must possess all of the
222 qualifications required of a permittee; however, a felony
223 conviction, other than a crime of violence, does not automatically



disqualify a person from being approved as a manager if the person was released from incarceration at least three (3) years prior to application for approval as a manager. A felony conviction, other than a crime of violence, may be considered by the department in determining whether all other qualifications are met.

(c) That the applicant for a package retailer's permit, if an individual, is a resident of the State of Mississippi. If the applicant is a partnership, each member of the partnership must be a resident of the state. If the applicant is a limited liability company, each member of the limited liability company must be a resident of the state. If the applicant is a corporation, the designated manager of the corporation must be a resident of the state.

(d) That the place for which the permit is to be issued is an appropriate one considering the character of the premises and the surrounding neighborhood.

(e) That the place for which the permit is to be issued is within the corporate limits of an incorporated municipality or qualified resort area or club which comes within the provisions of this article.

(f) That the applicant is not indebted to the state for any taxes, fees or payment of penalties imposed by any law of the State of Mississippi or by any rule or regulation of the commission.



248 (g) That the applicant is not in the habit of using
249 alcoholic beverages to excess and is not physically or mentally
250 incapacitated, and that the applicant has the ability to read and
251 write the English language.

252 (h) That the commission does not believe and has no
253 reason to believe that the applicant will sell or knowingly permit
254 any agent, servant or employee to unlawfully sell liquor in a dry
255 area or in any other manner contrary to law.

256 (i) That the applicant is not residentially domiciled
257 with any person whose permit or license has been cancelled for
258 cause within the twelve (12) months next preceding the date of the
259 present application for a permit.

260 (j) That the commission has not, in the exercise of its
261 discretion which is reserved and preserved to it, refused to grant
262 permits under the restrictions of this section, as well as under
263 any other pertinent provision of this article.

264 (k) That there are not sufficient legal reasons to deny
265 a permit on the ground that the premises for which the permit is
266 sought has previously been operated, used or frequented for any
267 purpose or in any manner that is lewd, immoral or offensive to
268 public decency. In the granting or withholding of any permit to
269 sell alcoholic beverages at retail, the commission in forming its
270 conclusions may give consideration to any recommendations made in
271 writing by the district or county attorney or county, circuit or
272 chancery judge of the county, or the sheriff of the county, or the



mayor or chief of police of an incorporated city or town wherein the applicant proposes to conduct his business and to any recommendations made by representatives of the commission.

(1) That the applicant and the applicant's key employees, as determined by the commission, do not have a disqualifying criminal record. In order to obtain a criminal record history check, the applicant shall submit to the commission a set of fingerprints from any local law enforcement agency for each person for whom the records check is required. The commission shall forward the fingerprints to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the Department of Public Safety shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. Costs for processing the set or sets of fingerprints shall be borne by the applicant. The commission shall not deny employment to an employee of the applicant prior to the identification of a disqualifying record or other disqualifying information.

(m) That the applicant has not owned or operated an establishment selling alcoholic beverages, beer, light wines or light spirit products for on-premises consumption whose premises, or adjacent areas on the same property, including, but not limited to, lawns and parking lots, were the site of more than one (1) death from violent causes during the hours of operation, or within one (1) hour of closing, within the past three hundred sixty-five



(365) days. For purposes of this paragraph, whether a death is from violent causes shall be determined from the details of the police report.

SECTION 4. Section 67-3-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

67-3-19. Where application is made for a permit to engage in the business of a retailer of light wine, light spirit product or beer, the applicant shall show in his application that he possesses the following qualifications:

(a) Applicant must be a person at least twenty-one (21) years of age, of good moral character and a resident of the State of Mississippi.

(b) Applicant shall not have been convicted of a felony, or of pandering or of keeping or maintaining a house of prostitution, or have been convicted within two (2) years of the date of his application of any violation of the laws of this state or the laws of the United States relating to alcoholic liquor.

(c) Applicant shall not have had revoked, except for a violation of Section 67-3-52, within two (2) years next preceding his application, any license or permit issued to him pursuant to the laws of this state, or any other state, to sell alcoholic liquor of any kind.

(d) Applicant shall be the owner of the premises for which the permit is sought or the holder of an existing lease thereon.



323 (e) Applicant shall not be residentially domiciled with
324 any person whose permit has been revoked for cause, except for a
325 violation of Section 67-3-52, within two (2) years next preceding
326 the date of the present application for a permit.

327 (f) The applicant has not had any license or permit to
328 sell beer, light spirit product or light wine at retail revoked,
329 within five (5) years next preceding his application, due to a
330 violation of Section 67-3-52.

331 (g) Applicant shall not employ any person whose permit
332 has been revoked when such person owned or operated the business
333 on the premises for which a permit is sought or allow such person
334 to have any financial interest in the business of the applicant,
335 until such person is qualified to obtain a permit in his own name.

336 (h) The applicant is not indebted to the State of
337 Mississippi for any taxes.

338 (i) If applicant is a partnership, all members of the
339 partnership must be qualified to obtain a permit. Each member of
340 the partnership must be a resident of the State of Mississippi.

341 (j) If applicant is a corporation, all officers and
342 directors thereof, and any stockholder owning more than five
343 percent (5%) of the stock of such corporation, and the person or
344 persons who shall conduct and manage the licensed premises for the
345 corporation shall possess all the qualifications required herein
346 for any individual permittee. However, the requirements as to



residence shall not apply to officers, directors and stockholders of such corporation.

(k) That the applicant has not owned or operated an establishment selling alcoholic beverages, beer, light wines or light spirit products for on-premises consumption whose premises, or adjacent areas on the same property, including, but not limited to, lawns and parking lots, were the site of more than one (1) death from violent causes during the hours of operation, or within one (1) hour of closing, within the past three hundred sixty-five (365) days. For purposes of this paragraph, whether a death is from violent causes shall be determined from the details of the police report.

Any misstatement or concealment of fact in an application shall be grounds for denial of the application or for revocation of the permit issued thereon.

The commissioner may refuse to issue a permit to an applicant for a place that is frequented by known criminals, prostitutes, or other law violators or troublemakers who disturb the peace and quietude of the community and frequently require the assistance of peace officers to apprehend such law violators or to restore order. The burden of proof of establishing the foregoing shall rest upon the commissioner.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

