

By: Hewes

To: Ports and Marine  
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2588

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE A SEPARATE LICENSE FEE FOR NONRESIDENT CHARTER BOATS;  
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:[LTR1]

7 49-15-313. (1) Any resident between the ages of sixteen  
8 (16) and sixty-five (65) years, as defined in Section 49-7-3,  
9 fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a  
10 saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of Four Dollars  
11 (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of  
12 Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, paraplegic or a  
13 multiple amputee, or who has been adjudged by the Veterans  
14 Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or  
15 has been adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security  
16 Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his  
17 possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in  
18 such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall  
19 have on his person while fishing proof of residency and age or  
20 disability.

21 (2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees  
22 for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the  
23 fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not  
24 be less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00). The commission shall  
25 require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing  
26 license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the

nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to fish in its marine waters.

(3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00). If the applicant's domicile state charges a greater fee than the nonresident fee of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) for residents of Mississippi, then the applicant must pay the same fee that the applicant's domicile state charges a resident of Mississippi.

Crew members and customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing license while sponsored by the licensed vessels.

An operator of a licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of customers to the department as required by the commission and the information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released, except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical data.

(4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all recreational methods of finfish harvest.

(5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

(6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

(7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management of marine resources.

(8) Participants in the Very Special Fishing Olympics are exempt from this section.

(9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater

64 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without  
65 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

66 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
67 and after July 1, 2000.