

By: Hewes

To: Ports and Marine
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2588
(As Passed the Senate)

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

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

29 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,
30 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be
31 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two
32 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in
33 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat
34 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the
35 commission. The commission shall establish the fees for
36 nonresident licenses, but the commission shall not charge a
37 nonresident a fee greater than the nonresident's domiciliary state
38 charges a Mississippi resident for a like license. Crew members
39 and customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to
40 purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing
41 license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a
42 licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of
43 customers to the department as required by the commission and the
44 information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released,
45 except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical
46 data.

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

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

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

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

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

62 (9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater
63 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without

64 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

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