

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2980
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-1-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION AS A
3 CONSERVATION OFFICER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 49-1-15. (1) All appointments of conservation officers
8 shall be under rules adopted and promulgated by the commission.
9 No person shall be appointed from and after July 1, 2001, unless
10 he meets the following requirements:

11 (a) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; * * *

12 (b) Has passed the required examination by correctly
13 answering at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions on the
14 examination * * *. The examination shall embrace the applicant's
15 knowledge of the state game and fish laws, cattle theft laws and
16 litter laws, and the duties and responsibilities of a conservation
17 officer; and

18 (c) Has successfully completed sixty-four (64) semester
19 hours at an accredited community college or university or has an
20 associate degree from an accredited community college or has
21 passed the Law Enforcement Academy and has at least five (5) years
22 experience in law enforcement.

23 (2) Each applicant, prior to entering into performance of
24 his duties, at the expense of the department, shall attend and
25 complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law enforcement
26 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy or
27 other training academy whose curriculum complies with requirements

28 of the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.
29 Conservation officers shall, on a periodic basis, be required to
30 successfully complete additional advanced courses in law
31 enforcement in order that they will be properly improved and
32 trained in the modern, technical advances of law enforcement.

33 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
34 and after July 1, 2001.