

By: Representative McCoy

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 798  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 67-1-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT AN APPLICANT FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE MUST  
3 SUBMIT A SET OF FINGERPRINTS, OF THE APPLICANT AND ANY EMPLOYEE OF  
4 THE APPLICANT, TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE TAX COMMISSION WHO  
5 SHALL FORWARD THE FINGERPRINTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
6 PUBLIC SAFETY; TO PROVIDE THAT IF NO DISQUALIFYING INFORMATION IS  
7 IDENTIFIED AT THE STATE LEVEL, THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
8 PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL FORWARD THE FINGERPRINTS TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU  
9 OF INVESTIGATION FOR A NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK; AND  
10 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 67-1-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

14 67-1-57. Before a permit is issued the commission shall  
15 satisfy itself:

16 (a) That the applicant, if an individual, or if a  
17 partnership, each of the members of the partnership, or if a  
18 corporation, each of its principal officers and directors, is of  
19 good moral character and, in addition, enjoys a reputation of  
20 being a peaceable, law-abiding citizen of the community in which  
21 he resides, and is generally fit for the trust to be reposed in  
22 him, is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age, and has not  
23 been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court.

24 (b) That, except in the case of an application for a  
25 solicitor's permit, the applicant is the true and actual owner of  
26 the business for which the permit is desired, and that he intends  
27 to carry on the business authorized for himself and not as the  
28 agent of any other person, and that he intends to superintend in  
29 person the management of said business or that he will designate a  
30 manager to manage the business for him; any such manager must be



31 approved by the commission and must possess all of the  
32 qualifications required of a permittee.

33 (c) That the applicant for a package retailer's permit,  
34 if an individual, is a resident of the State of Mississippi. If  
35 the applicant is a partnership, each member of the partnership  
36 must be a resident of the state. If the applicant is a  
37 corporation, the designated manager of the corporation must be a  
38 resident of the state.

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

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

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

50 (g) That the applicant is not in the habit of using  
51 alcoholic beverages to excess and is not physically or mentally  
52 incapacitated, and that the applicant has the ability to read and  
53 write the English language.

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

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

62 (j) That the commission has not, in the exercise of its  
63 discretion which is reserved and preserved to it, refused to grant



64 such permits under the restrictions of this section, as well as  
65 under any other pertinent provision of this chapter.

66 (k) That there are not sufficient legal reasons to deny  
67 a permit on the ground that the premises for which the permit is  
68 sought has previously been operated, used or frequented for any  
69 purpose or in any manner that is lewd, immoral or offensive to  
70 public decency. In the granting or withholding of any permit to  
71 sell alcoholic beverages at retail, the commission in forming its  
72 conclusions may give consideration to any recommendations made in  
73 writing by the district or county attorney or county, circuit or  
74 chancery judge of the county, or the sheriff of the county, or the  
75 mayor or chief of police of an incorporated city or town wherein  
76 the applicant proposes to conduct his business and to any  
77 recommendations made by representatives of the commission.

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

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
94 and after its passage.

