

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2556: Commission on Marine Resources; remove requirement of public hearing in every coast county on live bait regs.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7           **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-64.3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:  
9           49-15-64.3. (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm or  
10 corporation to take, catch or have in their possession within  
11 territorial waters of the State of Mississippi shrimp of a size  
12 weighing in the raw state less than one (1) pound to each  
13 sixty-eight (68) shrimp, except when a valid permit or affidavit  
14 of another state identifies the catch as having been taken in  
15 non-Mississippi waters, or except in case of live bait shrimp.  
16           (2) It is unlawful to take, catch or have in possession live  
17 bait shrimp of a size weighing in the raw state less than one (1)  
18 pound to each one hundred (100) shrimp. This provision may be  
19 changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the commission. The  
20 commission may adopt rules, regulations, guidelines and other  
21 operation criteria in conjunction with licensing live bait dealers  
22 and live bait catcher boats as it deems appropriate to ensure that  
23 only bona fide operations will be licensed. The commission shall  
24 consult with existing live bait dealers and live bait catcher boat  
25 operators before adoption of any regulations and before any future  
26 changes. The commission \* \* \* shall hold a public hearing in the  
27 county affected by the regulation, but if more than one (1) county

28 is affected, then the commission shall hold a public hearing in  
29 Harrison County. The commission shall notify each live bait  
30 licensee of the public hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the  
31 hearing, by first class mail at the last known address of the  
32 licensee.

33 (3) If a live bait dealer or live bait catcher boat is  
34 convicted of a violation of this chapter or a duly adopted  
35 ordinance of the commission, the commission may, in addition to  
36 punishment duly adjudicated, revoke the license of the vessel or  
37 dealer to whom it is issued for a period not exceeding two (2)  
38 weeks following conviction of the first offense, not exceeding six  
39 (6) months following conviction of the second offense, and up to  
40 one (1) year following conviction of the third and subsequent  
41 offenses, if the subsequent offenses are committed within three  
42 (3) years of the first offense. Upon the revocation of the  
43 license, the commission may require the posting of a cash  
44 performance bond not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)  
45 before the reissuance of that revoked license. The commission may  
46 require the forfeiture of that bond upon the subsequent conviction  
47 of any violation of this chapter or a duly adopted ordinance of  
48 the commission. If a person who posts bond under this section  
49 desires to no longer engage in the live bait business, that person  
50 shall certify that fact to the commission who shall return the  
51 bond. If that person desires to again engage in the live bait  
52 business, a cash performance bond may be required before the  
53 issuance of a license.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-64.3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES  
3 HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN EVERY COAST COUNTY BEFORE ADOPTION OF  
4 LIVE BAIT REGULATION; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO NOTIFY EACH  
5 LICENSURE OF A PUBLIC HEARING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T. O. Moffatt

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scottie R. Cuevas

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Hewes III

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Creel

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Ellington

**X**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Broomfield