

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2430

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-64.4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW LIVE BAIT DEALERS TO BE LOCATED INLAND WITHIN THE THREE
3 COASTAL COUNTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-64.4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-15-64.4. (1) Each live bait catcher boat engaged in
8 taking live bait shrimp shall pay an annual privilege tax of One
9 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each boat engaged in those
10 operations. The operations shall not exceed two (2) boats per
11 license.

12 (2) Each "live bait dealer" engaging in selling or otherwise
13 dispensing live bait to sport fishermen shall pay an annual
14 privilege tax of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and must make written
15 application to the commission providing the name of the
16 applicant's "live bait catcher boat," the name of the captain of
17 that "live bait catcher boat," the dealer's Mississippi state
18 sales tax number and a sworn statement that dead shrimp will not
19 be sold in containers having a volume in excess of sixteen (16)
20 ounces. Licensed live bait catcher boats and licensed live bait
21 dealers shall not operate as commercial shrimpers or commercial
22 shrimp dealers or otherwise engage in commercial shrimping
23 operations. Live bait dealers shall only sell or otherwise
24 dispose of bait shrimp when alive or dead with heads attached
25 solely as bait to recreational fishermen or other licensed live
26 bait dealers as regulated by the commission. Only licensed
27 commercial shrimpers may transport shrimp across the state line

28 for the purpose of selling or delivering live bait to another
29 state. Any person, firm or corporation found guilty of purchasing
30 shrimp from a live bait camp or live bait catcher boat, other than
31 for the purpose described in this section, shall be fined Five
32 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the first offense and shall be
33 fined Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and forfeit all seafood
34 licenses for a second or subsequent offense. In addition, each
35 application for a "live bait dealer" license shall contain a
36 statement of the operating hours, at least eight (8) per
37 twenty-four-hour period, and the location of the camp which must
38 be accessible to the general public by public road or * * * waters
39 located within the three (3) coastal counties. Applications for
40 "live bait dealers" license must be completed and submitted to the
41 commission between the first day of January and the last day of
42 April of each year. Any "live bait dealer" desiring to engage in
43 the catching of live shrimp in one (1) location and then
44 transporting them to the dealer's licensed live bait camp by truck
45 shall first make written application to the commission providing
46 the make and model of the truck, a Mississippi license tag number
47 and shall be responsible for its adherence to all regulations duly
48 adopted by the commission for the transportation of live bait
49 shrimp. Upon receipt of the application, the commission shall
50 verify that the applicant is in compliance with all applicable
51 laws and regulations and after that verification the commission
52 shall issue a permit authorizing the transportation of live
53 shrimp.

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