

By: Representatives Gipson, Ladner, Crawford To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-9-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE RENEWAL PROCESS FOR FIREARMS PERMITS; AND FOR  
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-9-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 45-9-101. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided, the  
8 Department of Public Safety is authorized to issue licenses to  
9 carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers to persons  
10 qualified as provided in this section. Such licenses shall be  
11 valid throughout the state for a period of five (5) years from the  
12 date of issuance. Any person possessing a valid license issued  
13 pursuant to this section may carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
14 concealed revolver.

15 (b) The licensee must carry the license, together with  
16 valid identification, at all times in which the licensee is  
17 carrying a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver and must display  
18 both the license and proper identification upon demand by a law



19 enforcement officer. A violation of the provisions of this  
20 paragraph (b) shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a  
21 penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and shall be enforceable  
22 by summons.

23 (2) The Department of Public Safety shall issue a license if  
24 the applicant:

25 (a) Is a resident of the state and has been a resident  
26 for twelve (12) months or longer immediately preceding the filing  
27 of the application. However, this residency requirement may be  
28 waived if the applicant possesses a valid permit from another  
29 state, is active military personnel stationed in Mississippi, or  
30 is a retired law enforcement officer establishing residency in the  
31 state;

32 (b) (i) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older; or

33 (ii) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age but  
34 not yet twenty-one (21) years of age and the applicant:

35 1. Is a member or veteran of the United  
36 States Armed Forces, including National Guard or Reserve; and

37 2. Holds a valid Mississippi driver's license  
38 or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety;

39 (c) Does not suffer from a physical infirmity which  
40 prevents the safe handling of a stun gun, pistol or revolver;

41 (d) Is not ineligible to possess a firearm by virtue of  
42 having been convicted of a felony in a court of this state, of any



43 other state, or of the United States without having been pardoned  
44 for same;

45 (e) Does not chronically or habitually abuse controlled  
46 substances to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
47 It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
48 uses controlled substances to the extent that his faculties are  
49 impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or involuntarily  
50 committed to a treatment facility for the abuse of a controlled  
51 substance or been found guilty of a crime under the provisions of  
52 the Uniform Controlled Substances Law or similar laws of any other  
53 state or the United States relating to controlled substances  
54 within a three-year period immediately preceding the date on which  
55 the application is submitted;

56 (f) Does not chronically and habitually use alcoholic  
57 beverages to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
58 It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
59 uses alcoholic beverages to the extent that his normal faculties  
60 are impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or  
61 involuntarily committed as an alcoholic to a treatment facility or  
62 has been convicted of two (2) or more offenses related to the use  
63 of alcohol under the laws of this state or similar laws of any  
64 other state or the United States within the three-year period  
65 immediately preceding the date on which the application is  
66 submitted;



67 (g) Desires a legal means to carry a stun gun,  
68 concealed pistol or revolver to defend himself;

69 (h) Has not been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or  
70 has waited five (5) years from the date of his restoration to  
71 capacity by court order;

72 (i) Has not been voluntarily or involuntarily committed  
73 to a mental institution or mental health treatment facility unless  
74 he possesses a certificate from a psychiatrist licensed in this  
75 state that he has not suffered from disability for a period of  
76 five (5) years;

77 (j) Has not had adjudication of guilt withheld or  
78 imposition of sentence suspended on any felony unless three (3)  
79 years have elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by  
80 the court have been fulfilled;

81 (k) Is not a fugitive from justice; and

82 (l) Is not disqualified to possess a weapon based on  
83 federal law.

84 (3) The Department of Public Safety may deny a license if  
85 the applicant has been found guilty of one or more crimes of  
86 violence constituting a misdemeanor unless three (3) years have  
87 elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by the court  
88 have been fulfilled or expunction has occurred prior to the date  
89 on which the application is submitted, or may revoke a license if  
90 the licensee has been found guilty of one or more crimes of  
91 violence within the preceding three (3) years. The department



92 shall, upon notification by a law enforcement agency or a court  
93 and subsequent written verification, suspend a license or the  
94 processing of an application for a license if the licensee or  
95 applicant is arrested or formally charged with a crime which would  
96 disqualify such person from having a license under this section,  
97 until final disposition of the case. The provisions of subsection  
98 (7) of this section shall apply to any suspension or revocation of  
99 a license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

100 (4) The application shall be completed, under oath, on a  
101 form promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and shall  
102 include only:

103 (a) The name, address, place and date of birth, race,  
104 sex and occupation of the applicant;

105 (b) The driver's license number or social security  
106 number of applicant;

107 (c) Any previous address of the applicant for the two  
108 (2) years preceding the date of the application;

109 (d) A statement that the applicant is in compliance  
110 with criteria contained within subsections (2) and (3) of this  
111 section;

112 (e) A statement that the applicant has been furnished a  
113 copy of this section and is knowledgeable of its provisions;

114 (f) A conspicuous warning that the application is  
115 executed under oath and that a knowingly false answer to any



116 question, or the knowing submission of any false document by the  
117 applicant, subjects the applicant to criminal prosecution; and

118 (g) A statement that the applicant desires a legal  
119 means to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver to defend  
120 himself.

121 (5) The applicant shall submit only the following to the  
122 Department of Public Safety:

123 (a) A completed application as described in subsection  
124 (4) of this section;

125 (b) A full-face photograph of the applicant taken  
126 within the preceding thirty (30) days in which the head, including  
127 hair, in a size as determined by the Department of Public Safety,  
128 except that an applicant who is younger than twenty-one (21) years  
129 of age must submit a photograph in profile of the applicant;

130 (c) A nonrefundable license fee of Eighty Dollars  
131 (\$80.00). Costs for processing the set of fingerprints as  
132 required in paragraph (d) of this subsection shall be borne by the  
133 applicant. Honorably retired law enforcement officers, disabled  
134 veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United  
135 States shall be exempt from the payment of the license fee;

136 (d) A full set of fingerprints of the applicant  
137 administered by the Department of Public Safety; and

138 (e) A waiver authorizing the Department of Public  
139 Safety access to any records concerning commitments of the  
140 applicant to any of the treatment facilities or institutions



141 referred to in subsection (2) and permitting access to all the  
142 applicant's criminal records.

143 (6) (a) The Department of Public Safety, upon receipt of  
144 the items listed in subsection (5) of this section, shall forward  
145 the full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate  
146 agencies for state and federal processing.

147 (b) The Department of Public Safety \* \* \* may forward a  
148 copy of the applicant's application to the sheriff of the  
149 applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the police  
150 chief of the applicant's municipality of residence. The sheriff  
151 of the applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the  
152 police chief of the applicant's municipality of residence may, at  
153 his discretion, participate in the process by submitting a  
154 voluntary report to the Department of Public Safety containing any  
155 readily discoverable prior information that he feels may be  
156 pertinent to the licensing of any applicant. The reporting shall  
157 be made within thirty (30) days after the date he receives the  
158 copy of the application. Upon receipt of a response from a  
159 sheriff or police chief, such sheriff or police chief shall be  
160 reimbursed at a rate set by the department.

161 (c) The Department of Public Safety shall, within  
162 forty-five (45) days after the date of receipt of the items listed  
163 in subsection (5) of this section:

164 (i) Issue the license;



165                   (ii) Deny the application based solely on the  
166 ground that the applicant fails to qualify under the criteria  
167 listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. If the  
168 Department of Public Safety denies the application, it shall  
169 notify the applicant in writing, stating the ground for denial,  
170 and the denial shall be subject to the appeal process set forth in  
171 subsection (7); or

172                   (iii) Notify the applicant that the department is  
173 unable to make a determination regarding the issuance or denial of  
174 a license within the forty-five-day period prescribed by this  
175 subsection, and provide an estimate of the amount of time the  
176 department will need to make the determination.

177                   (d) In the event a legible set of fingerprints, as  
178 determined by the Department of Public Safety and the Federal  
179 Bureau of Investigation, cannot be obtained after a minimum of two  
180 (2) attempts, the Department of Public Safety shall determine  
181 eligibility based upon a name check by the Mississippi Highway  
182 Safety Patrol and a Federal Bureau of Investigation name check  
183 conducted by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol at the request  
184 of the Department of Public Safety.

185                   (7) (a) If the Department of Public Safety denies the  
186 issuance of a license, or suspends or revokes a license, the party  
187 aggrieved may appeal such denial, suspension or revocation to the  
188 Commissioner of Public Safety, or his authorized agent, within  
189 thirty (30) days after the aggrieved party receives written notice





190 of such denial, suspension or revocation. The Commissioner of  
191 Public Safety, or his duly authorized agent, shall rule upon such  
192 appeal within thirty (30) days after the appeal is filed and  
193 failure to rule within this thirty-day period shall constitute  
194 sustaining such denial, suspension or revocation. Such review  
195 shall be conducted pursuant to such reasonable rules and  
196 regulations as the Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt.

197 (b) If the revocation, suspension or denial of issuance  
198 is sustained by the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his duly  
199 authorized agent pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection, the  
200 aggrieved party may file within ten (10) days after the rendition  
201 of such decision a petition in the circuit or county court of his  
202 residence for review of such decision. A hearing for review shall  
203 be held and shall proceed before the court without a jury upon the  
204 record made at the hearing before the Commissioner of Public  
205 Safety or his duly authorized agent. No such party shall be  
206 allowed to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver pursuant  
207 to the provisions of this section while any such appeal is  
208 pending.

209 (8) The Department of Public Safety shall maintain an  
210 automated listing of license holders and such information shall be  
211 available online, upon request, at all times, to all law  
212 enforcement agencies through the Mississippi Crime Information  
213 Center. However, the records of the department relating to  
214 applications for licenses to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or



215 revolvers and records relating to license holders shall be exempt  
216 from the provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983,  
217 and shall be released only upon order of a court having proper  
218 jurisdiction over a petition for release of the record or records.

219 (9) Within thirty (30) days after the changing of a  
220 permanent address, or within thirty (30) days after having a  
221 license lost or destroyed, the licensee shall notify the  
222 Department of Public Safety in writing of such change or loss.  
223 Failure to notify the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the  
224 provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal  
225 violation with a penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and shall  
226 be enforceable by a summons.

227 (10) In the event that a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
228 revolver license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the  
229 license was issued shall comply with the provisions of subsection  
230 (9) of this section and may obtain a duplicate, or substitute  
231 thereof, upon payment of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) to the  
232 Department of Public Safety, and furnishing a notarized statement  
233 to the department that such license has been lost or destroyed.

234 (11) A license issued under this section shall be revoked if  
235 the licensee becomes ineligible under the criteria set forth in  
236 subsection (2) of this section.

237 (12) (a) No less than \* \* \* one hundred eighty (180) days  
238 prior to the expiration date of the license, the Department of  
239 Public Safety shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the



240 expiration and a renewal form prescribed by the department. The  
241 licensee must renew his license on or before the expiration date  
242 by filing with the department the renewal form, a notarized  
243 affidavit stating that the licensee remains qualified pursuant to  
244 the criteria specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section,  
245 and a full set of fingerprints administered by the Department of  
246 Public Safety or the sheriff of the county of residence of the  
247 licensee.

248 The first renewal may be processed by mail or online and the  
249 subsequent renewal must be made in person. Thereafter every other  
250 renewal may be processed by mail or online to assure that the  
251 applicant must appear in person every ten (10) years for the  
252 purpose of obtaining a new photograph.

253 (i) Except as provided in this subsection, a  
254 renewal fee of Forty Dollars (\$40.00) shall also be submitted  
255 along with costs for processing the fingerprints unless, the  
256 renewal qualifies and will be processed by mail or online in  
257 accordance with (12) (a) of this section;

258 (ii) Honorably retired law enforcement officers,  
259 disabled veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of  
260 the United States shall be exempt from the renewal fee; and

261 (iii) The renewal fee for a Mississippi resident  
262 aged sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall be Twenty Dollars  
263 (\$20.00) only with no fingerprint processing unless deemed  
264 necessary for further investigation.



265 (b) The Department of Public Safety shall forward the  
266 full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate  
267 agencies for state and federal processing. The license shall be  
268 renewed upon receipt of the completed renewal application and  
269 appropriate payment of fees.

270 (c) A licensee who fails to file a renewal application  
271 on or before its expiration date must renew his license by paying  
272 a late fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). No license shall be  
273 renewed six (6) months or more after its expiration date, and such  
274 license shall be deemed to be permanently expired. A person whose  
275 license has been permanently expired may reapply for licensure;  
276 however, an application for licensure and fees pursuant to  
277 subsection (5) of this section must be submitted, and a background  
278 investigation shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of  
279 this section.

280 (13) No license issued pursuant to this section shall  
281 authorize any person to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
282 revolver into any place of nuisance as defined in Section 95-3-1,  
283 Mississippi Code of 1972; any police, sheriff or highway patrol  
284 station; any detention facility, prison or jail; any courthouse;  
285 any courtroom, except that nothing in this section shall preclude  
286 a judge from carrying a concealed weapon or determining who will  
287 carry a concealed weapon in his courtroom; any polling place; any  
288 meeting place of the governing body of any governmental entity;  
289 any meeting of the Legislature or a committee thereof; any school,



290 college or professional athletic event not related to firearms;  
291 any portion of an establishment, licensed to dispense alcoholic  
292 beverages for consumption on the premises, that is primarily  
293 devoted to dispensing alcoholic beverages; any portion of an  
294 establishment in which beer or light wine is consumed on the  
295 premises, that is primarily devoted to such purpose; any  
296 elementary or secondary school facility; any junior college,  
297 community college, college or university facility unless for the  
298 purpose of participating in any authorized firearms-related  
299 activity; inside the passenger terminal of any airport, except  
300 that no person shall be prohibited from carrying any legal firearm  
301 into the terminal if the firearm is encased for shipment, for  
302 purposes of checking such firearm as baggage to be lawfully  
303 transported on any aircraft; any church or other place of worship;  
304 or any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by  
305 federal law. In addition to the places enumerated in this  
306 subsection, the carrying of a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
307 revolver may be disallowed in any place in the discretion of the  
308 person or entity exercising control over the physical location of  
309 such place by the placing of a written notice clearly readable at  
310 a distance of not less than ten (10) feet that the "carrying of a  
311 pistol or revolver is prohibited." No license issued pursuant to  
312 this section shall authorize the participants in a parade or  
313 demonstration for which a permit is required to carry a stun gun,  
314 concealed pistol or revolver.



315           (14) A law enforcement officer as defined in Section 45-6-3,  
316 chiefs of police, sheriffs and persons licensed as professional  
317 bondsmen pursuant to Chapter 39, Title 83, Mississippi Code of  
318 1972, shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of this  
319 section. The licensing requirements of this section do not apply  
320 to the carrying by any person of a stun gun, pistol or revolver,  
321 knife, or other deadly weapon that is not concealed as defined in  
322 Section 97-37-1.

323           (15) Any person who knowingly submits a false answer to any  
324 question on an application for a license issued pursuant to this  
325 section, or who knowingly submits a false document when applying  
326 for a license issued pursuant to this section, shall, upon  
327 conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as  
328 provided in Section 99-19-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

329           (16) All fees collected by the Department of Public Safety  
330 pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a special fund  
331 hereby created in the State Treasury and shall be used for  
332 implementation and administration of this section. After the  
333 close of each fiscal year, the balance in this fund shall be  
334 certified to the Legislature and then may be used by the  
335 Department of Public Safety as directed by the Legislature.

336           (17) All funds received by a sheriff or police chief  
337 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be deposited into  
338 the general fund of the county or municipality, as appropriate,



339 and shall be budgeted to the sheriff's office or police department  
340 as appropriate.

341 (18) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require  
342 or allow the registration, documentation or providing of serial  
343 numbers with regard to any stun gun or firearm.

344 (19) Any person holding a valid unrevoked and unexpired  
345 license to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued  
346 in another state shall have such license recognized by this state  
347 to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers. The  
348 Department of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a  
349 reciprocal agreement with another state if that state requires a  
350 written agreement in order to recognize licenses to carry stun  
351 guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued by this state.

352 (20) The provisions of this section shall be under the  
353 supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety. The  
354 commissioner is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and  
355 regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

356 (21) For the purposes of this section, the term "stun gun"  
357 means a portable device or weapon from which an electric current,  
358 impulse, wave or beam may be directed, which current, impulse,  
359 wave or beam is designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure,  
360 momentarily stun, knock out, cause mental disorientation or  
361 paralyze.

362 (22) (a) From and after January 1, 2016, the Commissioner  
363 of Public Safety shall promulgate rules and regulations which



364 provide that licenses authorized by this section for honorably  
365 retired law enforcement officers and honorably retired  
366 correctional officers from the Mississippi Department of  
367 Corrections shall (i) include the words "retired law enforcement  
368 officer" on the front of the license, and (ii) that the license  
369 itself have a red background to distinguish it from other licenses  
370 issued under this section.

371 (b) An honorably retired law enforcement officer and  
372 honorably retired correctional officer shall provide the following  
373 information to receive the license described in this section: (i)  
374 a letter, with the official letterhead of the agency or department  
375 from which such officer is retiring, which explains that such  
376 officer is honorably retired, and (ii) a letter with the official  
377 letterhead of the agency or department, which explains that such  
378 officer has completed a certified law enforcement training  
379 academy.

380 (23) A disabled veteran who seeks to qualify for an  
381 exemption under this section shall be required to provide, as  
382 proof of service-connected disability, verification from the  
383 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

384 (24) No license shall be required under this section for a  
385 loaded or unloaded pistol or revolver carried in a purse, handbag,  
386 satchel, other similar bag or briefcase or fully enclosed case.

387 (25) The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules  
388 and regulations to certify qualified individuals as firearms





389 instructors in the state. Such rules and regulations shall  
390 include standards for certification, documentation of  
391 certification, a listing of all certified firearms instructors  
392 within the state, and fees for certification.

393       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
394 and after July 1, 2016.

