

HB439 ENROLLED



1 HB439
2 TBXBA11-2
3 By Representatives Baker, Hammett (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 12-Feb-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 Relating to Escambia County; to amend Section
4 45-27-234, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the
5 qualifications of the sheriff.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7 Section 1. Section 45-27-234, Code of Alabama 1975, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§45-27-234

10 (a) ~~On or after May 18, 2020~~Beginning June 1, 2026, a
11 ~~person~~an individual qualifying for election as Sheriff of
12 Escambia County or any ~~person~~individual appointed to serve as
13 a sheriff shall meet all of the following minimum
14 qualifications, in addition to any other qualifications
15 required by law:

16 (1) The ~~person~~individual is a citizen of the United
17 States.

18 (2) The ~~person~~individual has been a resident of the
19 county for at least one year immediately prior to the
20 qualification date.

21 (3) The ~~person~~individual has the qualifications of an
22 elector pursuant to state and federal law and ~~the person~~ has
23 been registered to vote in the county at least one year
24 immediately prior to qualifying.

25 (4) The ~~person~~individual has been awarded a high
26 school diploma or a GED equivalent.

27 (5) The ~~person~~individual is 25 years of age or older
28 prior to qualifying.



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29 (6) The ~~person~~individual has three or more years of
30 full-time prior service as a law enforcement officer having
31 the power of arrest, ~~which service is~~ certified by the Alabama
32 Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission, and ~~the~~
33 ~~person~~ has not been ~~retired or~~ separated from full-time active
34 law enforcement certified through the Alabama Peace Officers'
35 Standards and Training Commission for more than ~~two~~
36 ~~consecutive years~~ one year from the date of qualifying, or in
37 the event the ~~person~~individual has been ~~retired or~~ separated
38 from active law enforcement for more than ~~two consecutive~~
39 ~~years~~ one year, the ~~person~~individual has obtained a
40 recertification of full-time active law enforcement status ~~as~~
41 ~~a law enforcement officer~~ from the Alabama Peace Officers'
42 Standards and Training Commission prior to the date of
43 qualifying. In addition, if the individual has ever retired
44 from active law enforcement, he or she has three or more years
45 of full-time post-retirement law enforcement service prior to
46 the date of qualifying.

47 (7) The ~~person~~individual has never been convicted of a
48 felony criminal offense in this state or convicted of a
49 criminal offense in another jurisdiction where a conviction of
50 the offense would be considered a felony ~~offense~~ in this
51 state.

52 (b) Upon election, the sheriff of the county shall
53 attend annually a minimum of 12 hours of executive level
54 continuing education approved by the Alabama ~~Sheriff's~~Sheriffs
55 Association, National ~~Sheriff's~~Sheriffs' Association, or any
56 other recognized executive level continuing education program



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57 designed for law enforcement."

58 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,

59 2026.

