

HB439 INTRODUCED



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



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§45-27-234

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

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

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

(3) The ~~person~~individual has the qualifications of an elector pursuant to state and federal law and ~~the person~~ has



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29 been registered to vote in the county at least one year
30 immediately prior to qualifying.

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

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

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

53 (7) The ~~person~~ individual has never been convicted of a
54 felony criminal offense in this state or convicted of a
55 criminal offense in another jurisdiction where a conviction of
56 the offense would be considered a felony ~~offense~~ in this



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57 state.

58 (b) Upon election, the sheriff of the county shall
59 attend annually a minimum of 12 hours of executive level
60 continuing education approved by the Alabama ~~Sheriff's~~Sheriffs
61 Association, National ~~Sheriff's~~Sheriffs' Association, or any
62 other recognized executive level continuing education program
63 designed for law enforcement."

64 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,
65 2026.