



Media Release

MS Department of Public Safety
Division of Public Affairs

Media Alert

DPS COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES NEW SYSTEM FOR MHP PROMOTIONS

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JACKSON, Mississippi – In an effort to move the Mississippi Highway Patrol forward, Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner, Stephen Simpson unveils a new strategy for promotion within the highway patrol.

No longer will Mississippi State Troopers interview and grade their fellow troopers. Commissioner Simpson has created an assessment promotion system that will utilize the Mississippi State Personnel Board and out of state troopers from across the Southeast.

The Mississippi State Personnel Board will narrow the field of eligible candidates through an application process, a written exam and finally an oral exam. The oral exam will be conducted and graded by a five member panel made up of troopers from neighboring states. The three highest scoring candidates for the job will then be forwarded to the top leadership of the Mississippi Highway Patrol for a final interview before the promotion is awarded.

Commissioner Simpson began the process of creating the assessment system last summer.

“Assessment promotion has been successful in the private sector for many years. Many of our neighbors, including Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana have utilized assessment testing in law enforcement. I am very pleased with the independence and integrity it brings to our promotion process,” said DPS Commissioner Stephen Simpson.

Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board, Lynn Fitch says the new system can only benefit troopers.

“I am pleased to partner with the Department of Public Safety and Commissioner Simpson to develop a promotional system that will ensure our troopers are treated fairly and that promotions are properly rewarded to our troopers who risk their lives to protect and serve us,” said Fitch.

Open positions will be advertised on both the Mississippi State Personnel Board’s and DPS’s websites, email notifications will be sent to all highway patrol staff, a notification will be faxed to all DPS fax numbers and a notice will be placed within DPS headquarters. All openings will be advertised for seven days.

Commissioner Simpson would like to thank the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Mississippi State Personnel Board for their input in creating this new promotion system.

The assessment promotion system will go into effect immediately.