

By: Senator(s) Canon

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2353

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES SHALL EXPIRE ONE YEAR  
3 FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 49-7-21. (1) (a) The licenses for hunting, trapping or  
8 fishing shall be issued on a form prepared by the executive  
9 director and supplied to the bonded agents authorized to issue  
10 licenses. The forms shall bear the name and Social Security  
11 number or driver's license number of the applicant. All licenses  
12 shall expire one (1) year from the date of its issuance \* \* \*.  
13 The license shall be countersigned by the licensee in the presence  
14 of the agent authorized to issue the same. The licenses shall be  
15 issued in the name of the commission and be countersigned by the  
16 bonded agent issuing same. The application for a license under  
17 this chapter shall be subscribed and sworn to by the applicant  
18 before an officer authorized to administer oaths in this state,  
19 and for this purpose the members of the commission, the executive  
20 director, sheriffs, conservation officers and bonded agents are  
21 hereby authorized to administer oaths, but no charge shall be made  
22 by any officer employed by the commission or sheriff for the  
23 administration of the oath.

24 (b) A person may purchase a license from the office of  
25 the department without appearing in person.

26 (2) Any person authorized to issue licenses for hunting,

27 trapping or fishing in this state who attempts to issue a license  
28 on a form other than one as prescribed by this section, or  
29 attempts to prepare a license certificate in any manner other than  
30 on the form prescribed by this section, and furnished by the  
31 executive director, is guilty of a Class II violation, and shall  
32 be punished as provided in Section 49-7-143, Mississippi Code of  
33 1972, and the person convicted shall be forever barred from  
34 issuing licenses in the State of Mississippi.

35 (3) Any resident or nonresident who hunts, takes or traps  
36 any wild animal, bird or fish must possess a valid license issued  
37 by the commission, unless specifically exempted under this  
38 chapter.

39 (4) Any nonresident, who hunts without the required license  
40 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be  
41 fined in an amount not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)  
42 nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the first  
43 offense. The nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting, trapping  
44 and fishing privileges for a period not less than twelve (12)  
45 consecutive months from the date of conviction. For the second or  
46 any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be fined in an amount  
47 of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than  
48 One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or imprisoned in the  
49 county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine  
50 and imprisonment. The nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting,  
51 trapping and fishing privileges for a period not less than  
52 thirty-six (36) consecutive months from the date of conviction.

53 (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license  
54 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in  
55 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
56 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.  
57 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be  
58 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
59 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that

60 nonresident shall also forfeit all hunting, trapping and fishing  
61 privileges for a period not less than twelve (12) consecutive  
62 months from the date of conviction.

63 (6) Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name  
64 or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is  
65 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand  
66 Dollars (\$2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed  
67 one (1) year or both.

68 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
69 and after July 1, 1999.