AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-1-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO PROHIBIT THE HARVESTING OF DOE IN SIMPSON COUNTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 49-1-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

49-1-29. The commission may promulgate rules and regulations, inaugurate studies and surveys, and establish any services it deems necessary to carry out wildlife laws. A violation of any rules or regulations promulgated by the commission shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in Section 49-7-101.

The executive director shall have authority with commission approval:

(a) To close or shorten the open season as prescribed by law in cases of urgent emergency on any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles, fish or amphibians, in any locality, when it finds after investigation and public review that the action is reasonably necessary to secure the perpetuation of any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles, fish or amphibians and to maintain an adequate supply in the affected area. The statutes shall continue in full force and effect, except as restricted and limited by the rules and regulations promulgated by the commission.

(b) To designate wildlife refuges, with the consent of the property owner or owners, in any localities it finds necessary to secure perpetuation of any species of game birds, game or
fur-bearing animals, reptiles, fish or amphibians and to maintain
an adequate supply for the purpose of providing a safe retreat
where the animals may rest and replenish adjacent hunting,
trapping or fishing grounds or waters.

(c) To acquire and hold for the state by purchase,
condemnation, lease, or agreement as authorized from time to time
by the Legislature, and to receive by gifts or devise, lands or
water suitable for fish habitats, game and bird habitats, state
parks, access sites, wildlife refuges, or for public shooting,
trapping or fishing grounds or waters, to provide areas on which
any citizen may hunt, trap or fish under any special regulations
as the commission may prescribe.

(d) To extend and consolidate lands or waters suitable
for the above purposes by exchange of lands or waters under its
jurisdiction.

(e) To capture, propagate, transport, sell or exchange
any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles,
fish or amphibians needed for stocking or restocking any lands or
waters of the state.

(f) To enter into cooperative agreements with persons,
firms, corporations or governmental agencies for purposes
consistent with this chapter.

(g) To regulate the burning of rubbish, slashings and
marshes or other areas it may find reasonably necessary to reduce
the danger of destructive fires.

(h) To conduct research in improved wildlife and
fisheries conservation methods and to disseminate information to
the residents of the state through the schools, public media and
other publications.

(i) To have exclusive charge and control of the
propagation and distribution of wild birds, animals, reptiles,
fish and amphibians, the conduct and control of hatcheries,
biological stations and game and fur farms owned or acquired by
the state; to expend for the protection, propagation or
preservation of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles,
fish and amphibians all funds of the state acquired for this
purpose arising from licenses, gifts or otherwise; and shall have
charge of the enforcement of all wildlife laws.

  (j) To grant permits and provide regulations for field
trials and dog trainers.

  (k) To prohibit and to regulate the taking of nongame
gross fish, except minnows.

  (l) To enter into agreements with landowners to trap
and purchase quail on the premises of the landowner and to provide
for the distribution of quail.

  (m) To operate or lease to third persons concessions or
other rights or privileges on lakes owned or leased by the
department. Owners of land adjoining land owned or leased by the
department shall have priority to the concessions or rights or
privileges, if the owners meet the qualifications established by
the commission.

  (n) To implement a beaver control program and to charge
fees, upon the recommendation of the Beaver Control Advisory
Board, to landowners participating in the beaver control program
described in Section 49-7-201.

  (o) To apply for, receive and expend any federal, state
or local funds, contributions or funds from any other source for
the purpose of beaver control or eradication.

  (p) To require the department to divide the districts
into zones if necessary, and periodically survey the districts or
zones to obtain information that is necessary to properly
determine the population and allowable harvest limits of wildlife
within the district or zone; however, the commission shall
prohibit the harvesting of doe in Simpson County.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2001.