

By: Senator(s) Furniss

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2693

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO OFFER  
3 A FIVE-YEAR LICENSE; 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 be valid from the date of its issuance to June 30 following  
13 its date. The license shall be countersigned by the licensee in  
14 the presence of the agent authorized to issue the same. The  
15 licenses shall be issued in the name of the commission and be  
16 countersigned by the bonded agent issuing same. The application  
17 for a license under this chapter shall be subscribed and sworn to  
18 by the applicant before an officer authorized to administer oaths  
19 in this state, and for this purpose the members of the commission,  
20 the executive director, sheriffs, conservation officers and bonded  
21 agents are hereby authorized to administer oaths, but no charge  
22 shall be made by any officer employed by the commission or sheriff  
23 for the administration of the oath.

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

26 (c) The commission may design, establish, and  
27 administer a program to provide for the purchase, by electronic



28 means, of any license, permit, registration or reservation issued  
29 by the commission or department.

30 (d) The commission shall offer a five-year license for  
31 each type of resident license. The commission shall give a ten  
32 percent (10%) discount on the price of a five-year license.

33 (2) Any person authorized to issue licenses for hunting,  
34 trapping or fishing in this state who attempts to issue a license  
35 on a form other than one as prescribed by this section, or  
36 attempts to prepare a license certificate in any manner other than  
37 on the form prescribed by this section, and furnished by the  
38 executive director, is guilty of a Class II violation, and shall  
39 be punished as provided in Section 49-7-143, Mississippi Code of  
40 1972, and the person convicted shall be forever barred from  
41 issuing licenses in the State of Mississippi.

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

46 (4) Any nonresident, who hunts or traps without the required  
47 license is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof  
48 shall be fined in an amount not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
49 (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the  
50 first offense. The nonresident shall also be assessed by the  
51 court an administrative fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of  
52 this section. For the second or any subsequent offense a  
53 nonresident shall be fined in an amount of not less than One  
54 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than One Thousand Five  
55 Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for  
56 not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and  
57 imprisonment. The nonresident shall also be assessed by the court  
58 an administrative fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this  
59 section.



60 (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license  
61 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in  
62 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
63 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.  
64 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be  
65 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
66 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that  
67 nonresident shall also be assessed by the court an administrative  
68 fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this section.

69 (6) In addition to any other fines or penalties imposed  
70 under subsection (4) or (5) of this section, any person convicted  
71 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section shall be  
72 assessed by the court an administrative fee equal in amount to the  
73 cost of the hunting, trapping or fishing license fee that such  
74 person unlawfully failed to possess at the time of the violation,  
75 the amount of which license fee shall be entered upon the ticket  
76 or citation by the charging officer at the time the ticket or  
77 citation is issued. The clerk of the court in which conviction  
78 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section takes place,  
79 promptly shall collect all administrative fees imposed under this  
80 subsection and deposit them monthly with the State Treasurer, in  
81 the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as  
82 nearly as practicable, as required for the collection, receipt and  
83 deposit of state assessments under Section 99-19-73. However, all  
84 administrative fees collected under the provisions of this  
85 subsection shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the account  
86 of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and may be  
87 expended by the department upon appropriation by the Legislature.

88 (7) Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name  
89 or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is  
90 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand  
91 Dollars (\$2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed  
92 one (1) year or both.



93           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
94 and after July 1, 2002.

