

By: Representatives McBride, Frierson

To: Game and Fish

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 643

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW ANTLERED DEER WITH LESS THAN FOUR POINTS TO BE TAKEN IF
3 NECESSARY TO MANAGE DEER ON DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
4 LANDS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS; TO REQUIRE A PERMIT TO TAKE
5 SUCH DEER; TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE
6 THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO CONDUCT STUDIES
7 OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE REQUIRING PERSONS
8 WHO HARVEST ANY DEER TO IDENTIFY EACH DEER AND THE EFFECTS OF
9 EXTENDING THE DEER SEASON TO JANUARY 31; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game
14 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by
15 the Legislature by statute. * * *

16 (2) (a) The bag limit on antlered * * * deer is one
17 (1) * * * per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year. An
18 antlered * * * deer must have antlers of four (4) points or
19 greater to be taken except as provided in paragraph (b) of this
20 subsection.

21 (b) An antlered deer with less than four (4) points may
22 be taken by permit if it is necessary to manage deer on lands
23 under the deer management assistance program or wildlife
24 management areas. A written management justification issued by
25 the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks must accompany any
26 request for such a permit. Any antlered deer with less than four
27 (4) points harvested under this permit must be identified with a
28 tag immediately upon possession. Antlered deer taken by permit
29 shall be subject to the daily bag limit but shall not be subject
30 to the annual bag limit on antlered deer. The department shall



31 include a report on permits issued, to whom issued and deer
32 harvested in the department's annual deer program report.

33 (3) (a) The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1)
34 per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year; except that two
35 (2) additional antlerless deer per license year may be taken with
36 a bow and arrow. Antlerless deer may be taken only in the areas
37 prescribed by order of the commission. It is illegal to take a
38 spotted fawn in any season.

39 (b) It is unlawful for a nonresident to kill an
40 antlerless deer except: (i) a nonresident may take antlerless
41 deer on lands that the title is vested in the nonresident or on
42 lands that the nonresident has leased the hunting and fishing
43 rights; or (ii) a nonresident who has a native son or daughter
44 nonresident lifetime sportsman license or a resident lifetime
45 sportsman license may take antlerless deer on private lands,
46 wildlife management areas or national wildlife refuges.

47 (4) The bag limit on antlerless deer set by this section
48 shall not apply to private lands under the deer management
49 assistance program or the fee-based antlerless program as approved
50 by the department.

51 (5) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2005.

52 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
53 Parks shall conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a
54 procedure which requires any person who takes or harvests any deer
55 to physically mark or identify each deer taken by means of a tag
56 or similar method. The department shall complete its study and
57 file a report of its findings and recommendations with the
58 Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and the Chairman of
59 the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee not later than
60 January 15, 2004.

61 (2) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall
62 conduct a study on the effects of extending the deer hunting
63 season to January 31. The report shall not be limited to reducing



64 the number of days at the beginning of the season for the purpose
65 of adding days at the end of January, nor shall the report
66 prohibit the establishment of zones for deer season opening and
67 closing dates. The department shall complete its study and file a
68 report of its findings and recommendations with the Secretary of
69 the Senate and the Clerk of the House no later than January 1,
70 2004.

71 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2003.

