SENATE BILL NO. 2529

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW BUCKS WITH LESS THAN FOUR POINTS TO BE TAKEN IF NECESSARY TO MANAGE DEER ON LANDS MANAGED UNDER WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST; TO REQUIRE PERMIT TO TAKE SUCH BUCKS; TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by the Legislature by statute. This subsection shall stand repealed on July 1, 2004.

(2) (a) The bag limit on antlered buck deer is one (1) buck per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year. An antlered buck deer must have antlers of four (4) points or greater to be taken except the harvest of antlered bucks with less than four (4) points may be allowed by permit issued by the Deer Program Coordinator to clubs or landowners and on Wildlife Management Areas which are under the guidance of a wildlife biologist. A written management justification must accompany any request for permits. An annual report of all activity shall be prepared and presented to the Legislature.

(b) The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year; except that two (2) additional antlerless deer per license year may be taken with a bow and arrow. Antlerless deer may be taken only in the areas prescribed by order of the commission. It is illegal to take a spotted fawn in any season.
(c) It is unlawful for a nonresident to kill an antlerless deer except: (i) a nonresident may take antlerless deer on lands that the title is vested in the nonresident or on lands that the nonresident has leased the hunting and fishing rights; or (ii) a nonresident who has a native son or daughter nonresident lifetime sportsman license or a resident lifetime sportsman license may take antlerless deer on private lands, wildlife management areas or national wildlife refuges.

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

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.