

By: Representatives Stringer, Eaton

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1529

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
2 PARKS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT ALLOWING THE HUNTING OF DEER
3 OVER BAIT OR SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD IN CLARKE, COVINGTON, JASPER,
4 JONES, NEWTON AND SMITH COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO FILE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
6 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES
7 AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE WILDLIFE,
8 FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT ITS
9 RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE PILOT
10 PROJECT ON A STATEWIDE BASIS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
13 shall establish a pilot project allowing the hunting of deer over
14 bait or supplemental food. The project shall be limited to
15 Clarke, Covington, Jasper, Jones, Newton and Smith Counties, and
16 shall be managed and conducted strictly in accordance with such
17 rules and regulations as the commission may establish. The
18 commission shall have the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
19 Parks study and analyze all relevant data and issues with regard
20 to the project, including, but not limited to, the impact that the
21 project has upon the health and density of deer populations and
22 other wildlife, its affect on surrounding habitat, the
23 effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, the extent to which
24 hunters who participate in the project are successful in
25 harvesting deer and are supportive of the project, the perception
26 of the project by the general public, and the extent to which the
27 project has a favorable impact on economic development and
28 tourism.

29 On or before the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the
30 Legislature, the department shall file a report of its findings
31 and recommendations concerning the pilot project with the Chairman

32 of the House Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee and the
33 Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee.
34 The department shall include in its report its recommendation as
35 to the feasibility of establishing the pilot project on a
36 statewide basis.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2004.