

By: Representatives Robinson (84th),
Stringer, Nicholson, Staples, Eaton, Baker
(8th), Bounds, Horne

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 894

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 GRAIN OR SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD IN CLARKE, JASPER, KEMPER,
4 LAUDERDALE, NEWTON, NESHOPA, SCOTT AND SMITH COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO FILE A REPORT
6 OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE
7 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
8 SENATE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND TO INCLUDE IN
9 ITS REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF
10 ESTABLISHING THE PILOT PROJECT ON A STATEWIDE BASIS; TO AMEND
11 SECTION 49-7-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; AND FOR
12 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
15 shall establish a pilot project allowing the hunting of deer over
16 grain or supplemental food. The project shall be limited to
17 Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Newton, Neshoba, Scott and
18 Smith Counties, and shall be managed and conducted strictly in
19 accordance with such rules and regulations as the commission may
20 establish. Any person desiring to participate in the pilot
21 project shall pay an annual permit fee of One Hundred Fifty
22 Dollars (\$150.00) to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
23 Parks. Participants shall keep the grain or supplemental food dry
24 at all times. The commission shall have the Department of
25 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks study and analyze all relevant data
26 and issues with regard to the project, including, but not limited
27 to, the impact that the project has upon the health and density of
28 deer populations and other wildlife, its affect on surrounding
29 habitat, the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, the extent
30 to which hunters who participate in the project are successful in
31 harvesting deer and are supportive of the project, the perception
32 of the project by the general public, and the extent to which the

33 project has a favorable impact on economic development and
34 tourism.

35 On or before the first day of the 2007 Regular Session of the
36 Legislature, the department shall file a report of its findings
37 and recommendations concerning the pilot project with the Chairman
38 of the House Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee and the
39 Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee.
40 The department shall include in its report its recommendation as
41 to the feasibility of establishing the pilot project on a
42 statewide basis.

43 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
44 amended as follows:

45 49-7-33. It is unlawful to hunt, trap or kill any wild bird
46 or wild animal of any kind with the aid of bait, recordings of
47 bird or animal calls, or electrically amplified imitations of
48 calls of any kind, except a person may use electrically amplified
49 sound devices for hunting coyote and crow. The commission, in its
50 discretion, may relax the restrictions regarding the use of lures
51 or sound devices if a condition arises or exists, as decided by
52 the State Board of Health or county board of health, that may
53 endanger persons or livestock in a certain community, county or
54 area.

55 A person may use liquid scents for any animal or bird.

56 Any person who violates this section and does not have the
57 permit provided in Section 1 of this act commits a misdemeanor
58 punishable by a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

59 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2005, and shall stand repealed on July 1, 2009.