

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1420  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXEMPT HUNTERS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE FROM THE REQUIREMENT  
3 THAT AN ANTLERED DEER MUST HAVE AT LEAST FOUR POINTS TO BE TAKEN;  
4 TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT BUCK  
5 CRITERIA FOR ANTLERED DEER TAKEN BY PERMIT ON LANDS UNDER THE DEER  
6 MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game  
12 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by  
13 the Legislature by statute.

14 (2) (a) The bag limit on antlered deer is one (1) per day,  
15 not to exceed three (3) per license year. Except for hunters  
16 under sixteen (16) years of age and except as otherwise provided  
17 in paragraph (b) of this subsection, an antlered deer must have  
18 antlers of four (4) points or greater to be taken \* \* \*.

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

30 issued and deer harvested in the department's annual deer program  
31 report.

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

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

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

50 \* \* \*

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
52 and after July 1, 2005.