

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 887

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

10 SECTION 1. (1) When hunting deer during any gun season on
11 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)
12 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange. This
13 requirement shall not apply to a hunter while the hunter is in a
14 fully enclosed deer stand.

15 (2) A violation of this section is a Class II violation and
16 is punishable as provided in Section 49-7-143.

17 SECTION 2. The open season for game birds shall be as
18 follows:

19 (a) On bobwhite quail: The season shall open on
20 Thanksgiving Day and run through the first Saturday in March next
21 following.

22 (b) On pheasant: There shall be no open season on
23 pheasant.

24 (c) On wild turkey: The commission may fix the spring
25 season between March 1 and May 15. In addition, the commission
26 may fix special fall either-sex seasons.

27 (d) On migratory birds: The open season for migratory
28 birds shall be the season prescribed by the Federal Migratory Bird
29 Treaty regulations.

30 **SECTION 3.** The open season on game animals except deer shall
31 be as follows:

32 (a) On squirrel:

33 (i) Zone 1: For areas north of Highway 82 plus
34 those portions of Sunflower County and Washington County south of
35 Highway 82 the season shall open on the Saturday nearest October 1
36 and run through February 28.

37 (ii) Zone 2: For areas between Highway 82 and
38 Highway 84, plus such portions of the state south of Highway 84
39 and west of Interstate 55, the season shall open on the Saturday
40 nearest October 15 and run through February 28.

41 (iii) Zone 3: For areas south of Highway 84 and
42 east of Interstate 55 the season shall open on the last Saturday
43 in October and run through February 28.

44 (b) On rabbits: The season shall open on the Saturday
45 nearest October 15 and run through February 28 next following, and
46 when rabbits are depredating or destroying crops, the owner of the
47 crops or his tenants may shoot the rabbits with guns.

48 **SECTION 4.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
49 amended as follows:

50 49-7-31. (1) The open season * * * on deer shall be as
51 follows:

52 * * *

53 (a) With bow and arrow: October 1 through the Friday
54 prior to Thanksgiving.

55 (b) With guns and with dogs: From the Saturday prior
56 to Thanksgiving through December 1.

57 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December
58 2 through December 15.

59 (d) With guns and without dogs: December 16 through
60 December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting statewide
61 or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may designate
62 without dogs after the end of the last season for hunting deer
63 with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal designated
64 weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond January 31.

65 (e) The commission shall establish an extended season
66 with primitive weapons and bow and arrow without dogs from
67 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway
68 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for antlered deer with
69 a minimum inside spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam
70 length of thirteen (13) inches. The commission may delay the
71 opening date and change the length of bow and arrow season in
72 paragraph (1)(a) in this area.

73 (f) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through a
74 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of
75 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when
76 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns
77 and with dogs in paragraph (b).

78 * * *

79 (2) * * * The commission may * * * set and regulate the deer
80 seasons on wildlife management areas which it administers.

81 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of
82 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation
83 of the executive director based upon good and substantial
84 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that
85 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

86 (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the
87 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer
88 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote
89 of the commission.

90 (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting
91 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands
92 under a deer management program prescribed or approved by the
93 executive director.

94 (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the
95 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.
96 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the
97 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may
98 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who
99 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem
100 wildlife.

101 * * *

102 SECTION 5. (1) The commission shall establish a special
103 hunting season for youth under the age of sixteen (16) and for
104 handicapped persons in the Natchez State Park. The commission
105 shall also establish a primitive weapon season in the Natchez
106 State Park. The selection of participants in the primitive weapon
107 season shall be by public drawing from all qualified applications.
108 The commission shall set the number of permits to be issued and
109 the length of the special seasons.

110 (2) The commission may also establish a special hunting
111 season for youth and handicapped persons or a primitive weapon
112 season as provided in this section in any other state park under
113 the jurisdiction of the department but shall only do so upon the
114 recommendation of the staff of the department as approved by the
115 commission. The commission shall select participants and set the
116 number of permits to be issued and the length of the special
117 seasons.

118 (3) The commission may establish and regulate special youth
119 hunts for all nonmigratory game birds and animals outside of the
120 open season on wildlife management areas and on private lands.

121 SECTION 6. (1) The commission may fix the open season on
122 fur-bearing animals between November 1 and March 1 next following
123 and fix the open season for hunting opossums, raccoons and bobcats
124 with dogs and guns by licensed hunters from October 1 to February
125 28 next following; but raccoons and bobcats may be run, hunted,
126 chased or pursued throughout the year with dogs by licensed
127 hunters.

128 (2) The commission may establish an additional open season
129 on raccoon from July 1 through October 1, and the bag limit on
130 raccoon during the additional open season shall be one (1) per
131 party, per night.

132 SECTION 7. (1) (a) The hunting of predatory animals shall
133 be restricted to the open seasons for hunting any game animal or
134 game bird, using only the firearms, ammunition, primitive weapons
135 or archery equipment legal for use during that open season.

136 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
137 designated agents may take predatory animals year-round on lands
138 owned or leased by them.

139 (2) The taking of any animal or animals other than beavers,
140 nutria or coyote by the use of a trap or traps is unlawful except
141 during the time the season is open for the taking of fur-bearing
142 animals.

143 (3) Fox and coyote may be run, chased or pursued with dogs
144 except as provided in Section 49-7-32 year-round by licensed
145 hunters.

146 (4) It is unlawful to trap fox after the closed season for
147 trapping of other fur-bearing animals, except on property owned or
148 leased by the person trapping.

149 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
150 and after July 1, 2005.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WEARING HUNTER ORANGE;
2 TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR NOT WEARING HUNTER ORANGE; TO RECODIFY
3 OPEN SEASON LAWS ON GAME ANIMALS AND BIRDS, FUR-BEARING ANIMALS
4 AND PREDATORS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
5 TO CONFORM; TO FURTHER AMEND 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
6 PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENDED DEER SEASON ON BUCKS WITH CERTAIN MINIMUM
7 ANTLER SIZES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.