

**Adopted  
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Cmte Sub for Senate Bill No. 2917**

**BY: Senator(s) Posey**

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

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

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

14        **SECTION 2.** The open season for game birds shall be as  
15 follows:

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

19           (b) On pheasant: There shall be no open season on  
20 pheasant.

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

24 (d) On migratory birds: The open season for migratory  
25 birds shall be the season prescribed by the Federal Migratory Bird  
26 Treaty regulations.

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

29 (a) On squirrel:

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

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

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

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

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

47 49-7-31. (1) The open season \* \* \* on deer shall be as  
48 follows:

49 \* \* \*

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

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

54 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December  
55 2 through December 15.

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

62           (e) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through a  
63 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of  
64 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when  
65 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns  
66 and with dogs in paragraph (b).

67       \* \* \*

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

70           (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of  
71 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation  
72 of the executive director based upon good and substantial  
73 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that  
74 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

75           (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the  
76 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer  
77 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote  
78 of the commission.

79           (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting  
80 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands  
81 under a deer management program prescribed or approved by the  
82 executive director.

83           (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the  
84 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.  
85 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the  
86 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may  
87 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who

88 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem  
89 wildlife.

90 \* \* \*

91 **SECTION 5.** (1) The commission shall establish a special  
92 hunting season for youth under the age of sixteen (16) and for  
93 handicapped persons in the Natchez State Park. The commission  
94 shall also establish a primitive weapon season in the Natchez  
95 State Park. The selection of participants in the primitive weapon  
96 season shall be by public drawing from all qualified applications.  
97 The commission shall set the number of permits to be issued and  
98 the length of the special seasons.

99 (2) The commission may also establish a special hunting  
100 season for youth and handicapped persons or a primitive weapon  
101 season as provided in this section in any other state park under  
102 the jurisdiction of the department but shall only do so upon the  
103 recommendation of the staff of the department as approved by the  
104 commission. The commission shall select participants and set the  
105 number of permits to be issued and the length of the special  
106 seasons.

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

110 **SECTION 6.** (1) The commission may fix the open season on  
111 fur-bearing animals between November 1 and March 1 next following  
112 and fix the open season for hunting opossums, raccoons and bobcats  
113 with dogs and guns by licensed hunters from October 1 to February  
114 28 next following; but raccoons and bobcats may be run, hunted,  
115 chased or pursued throughout the year with dogs by licensed  
116 hunters.

117 (2) The commission may establish an additional open season  
118 on raccoon from July 1 through October 1, and the bag limit on

119 raccoon during the additional open season shall be one (1) per  
120 party, per night.

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

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

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

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

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

138        **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
139 and after July 2, 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; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.