

By: Representatives Parker, Bentz,
Nicholson, Patterson, Walley

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 490

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE HUNTING OF DEER OVER CORN, GRAIN OR OTHER
3 SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD DURING ANY DEER HUNTING SEASON SUBJECT TO
4 CERTAIN CONDITIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
5 1972, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 49-7-31. (1) The open season on deer shall be as follows:

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

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

15 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December
16 2 through December 15.

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

23 (e) The commission shall establish an extended season
24 with primitive weapons and bow and arrow without dogs from
25 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway
26 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. Any
27 antlered deer taken in this area during any open season under this
28 section must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For
29 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a deer

30 with antlers of four (4) points or more with a minimum inside
31 spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam length of
32 thirteen (13) inches. The commission may delay the opening date
33 and change the length of bow and arrow season in paragraph (1)(a)
34 in this area.

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

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

42 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of
43 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation
44 of the executive director based upon good and substantial
45 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that
46 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

47 (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the
48 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer
49 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote
50 of the commission.

51 (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting
52 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands
53 under a deer management program prescribed or approved by the
54 executive director.

55 (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the
56 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.
57 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the
58 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may
59 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who
60 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem
61 wildlife.

62 (5) The hunting of deer over corn, grain or other
63 supplemental food during any deer hunting season shall be lawful
64 if the food is dispensed and distributed in a fairly even manner
65 from a feeder that keeps the food covered or protected from the
66 direct elements of weather and the feeder is located only upon
67 private property. The commission may adopt such ruler of
68 regulations as it deems necessary to administer the provisions of
69 this subsection but may not require permits or charge or collect
70 any fees for such purposes.

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

73 49-7-33. (1) Except as otherwise authorized under Section
74 49-7-31(5), it is unlawful to hunt, trap or kill any wild bird or
75 wild animal of any kind with the aid of bait, recordings of bird
76 or animal calls, or electrically amplified imitations of calls of
77 any kind, except a person:

78 (a) May use electrically amplified sound devices for
79 hunting coyote and crow;

80 (b) May use liquid scents for any animal or bird; and

81 (c) May use lures for trapping furbearing animals,
82 beaver, coyote, fox and nutria according to regulations adopted by
83 the commission.

84 (2) The commission, in its discretion, may relax the
85 restrictions regarding the use of lures or sound devices if a
86 condition arises or exists, as decided by the State Board of
87 Health or county board of health, that may endanger persons or
88 livestock in a certain community, county or area.

89 (3) A person may use bait to trap wild hogs as defined in
90 Section 49-7-140 during the period between the end of Spring
91 turkey season and the beginning of deer season with bow and arrow.

92 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2006.