

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 698

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-20.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWELVE AND SIXTEEN WHO
3 HAVE NOT SATISFACTORILY PASSED THE HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE TO BE
4 ACCOMPANIED WHILE HUNTING BY MISSISSIPPI LICENSED OR EXEMPT HUNTER
5 AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE; TO CREATE A RESIDENT APPRENTICE
6 LICENSE ALLOWING PERSONS AGE SIXTEEN OR OLDER TO HUNT OR TRAP IN
7 THE STATE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY MISSISSIPPI LICENSED OR EXEMPT
8 HUNTER AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-20.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 49-7-20.1. (1) To reduce hunting accidents of children
13 under license age, to protect the safety of these children and to
14 promote hunter safety, a child at least twelve (12) years of age
15 and under sixteen (16) years of age must have a certificate of
16 satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by
17 the department before hunting in this state.

18 (2) A child under the age of twelve (12) must be in the
19 presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt
20 hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the child is
21 hunting. A child at least twelve (12) years of age and under
22 sixteen (16) years of age that has not satisfactorily completed
23 the hunter education course as approved by the department must be
24 in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or
25 exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the child
26 is hunting.

27 (3) There is no penalty for a violation of this section, but
28 to protect the safety of the child a conservation officer may
29 require the child to end the hunt and may unload the firearm and
30 may take the firearm and the child to an adult.

31 (4) There is created a resident "apprentice" license to be
32 issued by the department to anyone at least sixteen (16) years of
33 age or older that allows the holder, without having hunter safety
34 education, to hunt or trap with a licensed or exempt hunter
35 twenty-one (21) years of age or older. Licensees under this
36 section are limited to a one-time purchase. Upon the expiration
37 of the one-time resident "apprentice" license, such licensees
38 shall not hunt without having satisfactorily completed hunter
39 safety education.

40 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2006.