

By: Senator(s) Michel, Flowers, Chaney, Mettetal, Davis, Jackson (15th), White, Williamson, Gollott, King, Dearing, Doxey, Pickering, Brown, Hyde-Smith, Ross, Hewes, Morgan, Clarke, Kirby, Nunnelee, Cuevas, Little, Carmichael, Lee (35th), Albritton

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2703

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE RIGHT TO HUNT, FISH AND HARVEST GAME;
2 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (1) The people have a right to hunt, fish and
5 harvest game. Hunting, trapping and fishing and the taking of
6 wild game species are a valued part of our heritage and will be
7 forever preserved for the people. Fish and wildlife shall be
8 managed by laws and regulations that provide persons with the
9 continued opportunity to take, by traditional means and methods,
10 species traditionally pursued by hunters, anglers and trappers.
11 Fish and wildlife management, including taking, shall be
12 consistent with the state's duty to protect this heritage and its
13 duty to conserve wild animals, birds and fish. Hunting, fishing
14 or trapping by sportsmen shall always be a preferred and available
15 means of controlling all invasive or overpopulated species. Any
16 person who is licensed or exempt from licensure by state law or
17 regulation to hunt, fish or trap and who is adversely affected by
18 a failure to comply with this section shall have a private cause
19 of action to enforce this section. The right of the people to
20 hunt, fish, trap and harvest game shall be subject only to such
21 regulations and restrictions as the Legislature may prescribe by
22 general law.

23 (2) It is the public policy of the state to promote the
24 public and private acquisition, approval, construction and
25 operation of shooting ranges and other facilities where persons
26 may acquire and enhance their training and skills to hunt and
27 harvest game safely, efficiently and humanely.

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