

By: Representatives Stringer, Nicholson,
Bounds, Staples, Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 423

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
2 PARKS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT ALLOWING THE HUNTING OF DEER
3 OVER GRAIN OR SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD IN AMITE, CHOCTAW, CLARKE, COPIAH,
4 FORREST, GEORGE, GREENE, HANCOCK, HARRISON, JACKSON, JASPER,
5 JEFFERSON DAVIS, JONES, KEMPER, LAMAR, LAUDERDALE, LAWRENCE,
6 LINCOLN, MARION, NESHOPA, NEWTON, PEARL RIVER, PERRY, PIKE, SCOTT,
7 SMITH, STONE, WALTHALL, WAYNE, WEBSTER AND WILKINSON COUNTIES; TO
8 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO FILE A
9 REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF
10 THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN
11 OF THE SENATE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND TO
12 INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF
13 ESTABLISHING THE PILOT PROJECT ON A STATEWIDE BASIS; TO AMEND
14 SECTION 49-7-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972; TO PRESCRIBE A PENALTY
15 FOR HUNTING DEER OVER GRAIN EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY THIS ACT; AND
16 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
19 shall establish a pilot project allowing the hunting of deer over
20 grain or supplemental food. The project shall be limited to
21 Amite, Choctaw, Clarke, Copiah, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock,
22 Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar,
23 Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Pearl
24 River, Perry, Pike, Scott, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Wayne, Webster
25 and Wilkinson Counties, and shall be managed and conducted
26 strictly in accordance with such rules and regulations as the
27 commission may establish. The commission may require a person
28 desiring to participate in the pilot project to obtain a permit
29 for such privilege but may not charge or collect a fee for such
30 permit. The commission shall have the Department of Wildlife,
31 Fisheries and Parks study and analyze all relevant data and issues
32 with regard to the project, including, but not limited to, the
33 impact that the project has upon the health and density of deer
34 populations and other wildlife, its effect on surrounding habitat,

35 the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, the extent to which
36 hunters who participate in the project are successful in
37 harvesting deer and are supportive of the project, the perception
38 of the project by the general public, and the extent to which the
39 project has a favorable impact on economic development and
40 tourism.

41 On or before the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the
42 Legislature, the department shall file a report of its findings
43 and recommendations concerning the pilot project with the Chairman
44 of the House Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee and the
45 Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee.
46 The department shall include in its report its recommendation as
47 to the feasibility of establishing the pilot project on a
48 statewide basis.

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

51 49-7-33. (1) It is unlawful to hunt, trap or kill any wild
52 bird or wild animal of any kind with the aid of bait, recordings
53 of bird or animal calls, or electrically amplified imitations of
54 calls of any kind, except a person:

55 (a) May use electrically amplified sound devices for
56 hunting coyote and crow;

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

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

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

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

69 (4) Any person who violates this section and does not have
70 the permit provided in Section 1 of this act commits a misdemeanor
71 punishable as a Class III violation as provided under Section
72 49-7-101.

73 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2007, and shall stand repealed on July 1, 2011.