

By: Representative Stringer

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

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 CLARKE, JASPER, KEMPER, NEWTON,
4 NESHOPA, AND SMITH COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO FILE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
6 RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES
7 AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE WILDLIFE,
8 FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE AND TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT ITS
9 RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE PILOT
10 PROJECT ON A STATEWIDE BASIS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-33,
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972; TO PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR HUNTING DEER
12 OVER GRAIN EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
13 PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
16 shall establish a pilot project allowing the hunting of deer over
17 grain or supplemental food. The project shall be limited to
18 Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Newton, Neshoba, and Smith Counties, and
19 shall be managed and conducted strictly in accordance with such
20 rules and regulations as the commission may establish. The
21 commission may require a person desiring to participate in the
22 pilot project to obtain a permit for such privilege but may not
23 charge or collect a fee for such permit. Participants shall keep
24 the grain or supplemental food dry at all times. The commission
25 shall have the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks study
26 and analyze all relevant data and issues with regard to the
27 project, including, but not limited to, the impact that the
28 project has upon the health and density of deer populations and
29 other wildlife, its effect on surrounding habitat, the
30 effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, the extent to which
31 hunters who participate in the project are successful in
32 harvesting deer and are supportive of the project, the perception

33 of the project by the general public, and the extent to which the
34 project has a favorable impact on economic development and
35 tourism.

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

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

46 49-7-33. (1) It is unlawful to hunt, trap or kill any wild
47 bird or wild animal of any kind with the aid of bait, recordings
48 of bird or animal calls, or electrically amplified imitations of
49 calls of any kind, except a person:

50 (a) May use electrically amplified sound devices for
51 hunting coyote and crow;

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

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

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

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

64 (4) Any person who violates this section and does not have
65 the permit provided in Section 1 of this act commits a misdemeanor

66 punishable as a Class III violation as provided under Section
67 49-7-101.

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