

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 911

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW LANDOWNERS TO TAKE NUISANCE ANIMALS, ON PROPERTY OWNED OR
3 LEASED BY THEM, WITH ANY WEAPON, WITH OR WITHOUT THE AID OF LIGHT
4 WITH A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
5 PARKS; TO ADD SKUNKS AND FOXES TO THE CLASS OF ANIMALS FOR WHICH
6 IT IS NOT UNLAWFUL TO HUNT OR TRAP DURING OPEN SEASON FOR THE
7 TAKING OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS; TO PROHIBIT THE HUNTING OR TAKING
8 OF NUISANCE ANIMALS WITH THE USE OF LIGHT ON OR FROM PUBLIC ROADS
9 OR LEVEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE HUNTING OF NUISANCE ANIMALS WITH
10 ELECTRONIC CALLS AND BAIT, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; TO
11 EXEMPT THE LANDOWNERS FROM THE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS TO HUNT OR
12 TRAP NUISANCE ANIMALS ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY; TO REQUIRE AGENTS OF
13 LANDOWNERS HUNTING OR TRAPPING NUISANCE ANIMALS TO POSSESS A
14 HUNTING OR TRAPPING LICENSE UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPT; TO REQUIRE
15 THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO ESTABLISH THE
16 RULES AND REGULATIONS ON TRAPPING NUISANCE ANIMALS; TO AUTHORIZE
17 THE SALE OF THE MEAT AND HIDE OF NUISANCE ANIMALS; TO PROHIBIT THE
18 TRAPPING AND RELEASE OF WILD HOGS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AND TO
19 PRESCRIBE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO REQUIRE THE WEARING OF
20 HUNTER ORANGE WHEN HUNTING NUISANCE ANIMALS DURING ANY OPEN GUN
21 SEASON ON DEER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

23 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31.5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 amended as follows:

25 49-7-31.5. (1) (a) The hunting of * * * nuisance animals
26 shall be regulated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
27 Fisheries and Parks.

28 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
29 designated agents may take * * * nuisance animals with any type of
30 weapon, with or without the aid of light, year-round on lands
31 owned or leased by them with a permit issued by the Department of
32 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. All other hunters must abide by
33 commission regulations concerning weapons at night.

34 (2) The taking of any animal or animals other than beavers,
35 nutria, wild hogs, coyote, skunks or foxes by the use of a trap or

36 traps is unlawful except during the time the season is open for
37 the taking of fur-bearing animals.

38 (3) Nuisance animals may be * * * chased or pursued with
39 dogs, except as provided in Section 49-7-32, year-round by
40 licensed hunters. Nuisance animals may not be hunted or taken
41 with the use of a light on or from public roads or levees.

42 (4) Nuisance animals may be hunted with the aid of
43 electronic calls.

44 (5) Nuisance animals may be trapped with the aid of bait or
45 lures, except during the open hunting season on turkey.

46 (6) No hunting or trapping license is required for
47 landowners hunting or trapping on their own property. Designated
48 agents of the landowner must possess either a hunting license or
49 trapping license, unless otherwise exempt.

50 (7) Traps set for nuisance animals are not required to be
51 tagged or numbered. The commission shall adopt and promulgate
52 rules and regulations regarding the trapping of nuisance animals.

53 (8) The meat and hides of nuisance animals may be bought and
54 sold year-round.

55 (9) Wild hogs may not be caught or trapped and released into
56 the wild at other locations different from the location where the
57 wild hog was caught or trapped, only fox and coyote may be caught
58 and relocated. A violation of this subsection is a Class I
59 violation and is punishable as provided under Section 49-7-141.

60 (10) When hunting nuisance animals during any open gun
61 season for deer, a hunter must wear at least five hundred (500)
62 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

63 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2007.