

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2785

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
2 PARKS TO ISSUE MULTI-YEAR LICENSES; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21,
3 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) The commission may authorize the issuance of
6 a multi-year license not to exceed four (4) years of any license
7 issued by the commission. The fee for a multi-year license shall
8 be commensurate with the total of the annual fees for the annual
9 license for the number of years of the multi-year license.

10 (2) A person authorized to issue licenses by the department
11 may collect and retain for issuing each license the fee authorized
12 under Section 49-7-17.

13 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 49-7-21. (1) (a) The licenses for hunting, trapping or
16 fishing shall be issued on a form prepared by the executive
17 director and supplied to the bonded agents authorized to issue
18 licenses. The forms shall bear the name and social security
19 number or driver's license number of the applicant. All annual
20 licenses shall be valid from the date of its issuance to June 30
21 following its date. The licenses shall be issued in the name of
22 the commission and be countersigned by the bonded agent issuing
23 same. The application for a license under this chapter shall be
24 subscribed and sworn to by the applicant before an officer
25 authorized to administer oaths in this state, and for this purpose
26 the members of the commission, the executive director, sheriffs,
27 conservation officers and bonded agents are hereby authorized to

28 administer oaths, but no charge shall be made by any officer
29 employed by the commission or sheriff for the administration of
30 the oath.

31 (b) A person may purchase a license from the office of
32 the department without appearing in person.

33 (c) The commission may design, establish, and
34 administer a program to provide for the purchase, by electronic
35 means, of any license, permit, registration or reservation issued
36 by the commission or department.

37 (2) Any person authorized to issue licenses for hunting,
38 trapping or fishing in this state who attempts to issue a license
39 on a form other than one as prescribed by this section, or
40 attempts to prepare a license certificate in any manner other than
41 on the form prescribed by this section, and furnished by the
42 executive director, is guilty of a Class II violation, and shall
43 be punished as provided in Section 49-7-143, Mississippi Code of
44 1972, and the person convicted shall be forever barred from
45 issuing licenses in the State of Mississippi.

46 (3) Any resident or nonresident who hunts, takes or traps
47 any wild animal, bird or fish must possess a valid license issued
48 by the commission, unless specifically exempted under this
49 chapter.

50 (4) Any nonresident, who hunts or traps without the required
51 license is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof
52 shall be fined in an amount not less than Five Hundred Dollars
53 (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the
54 first offense and shall forfeit hunting and trapping privileges
55 for a period of one (1) year. The nonresident shall also be
56 assessed by the court an administrative fee as prescribed under
57 subsection (6) of this section. For the second or any subsequent
58 offense a nonresident shall be fined in an amount of not less than
59 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than One Thousand Five
60 Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for

61 not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment
62 and shall forfeit hunting and trapping privileges for a period of
63 two (2) years. The nonresident shall also be assessed by the
64 court an administrative fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of
65 this section.

66 (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license
67 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in
68 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more
69 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.
70 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be
71 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
72 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that
73 nonresident shall also be assessed by the court an administrative
74 fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this section.

75 (6) In addition to any other fines or penalties imposed
76 under subsection (4) or (5) of this section, any person convicted
77 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section shall be
78 assessed by the court an administrative fee equal in amount to the
79 cost of the hunting, trapping or fishing license fee that such
80 person unlawfully failed to possess at the time of the violation,
81 the amount of which license fee shall be entered upon the ticket
82 or citation by the charging officer at the time the ticket or
83 citation is issued. The clerk of the court in which conviction
84 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section takes place,
85 promptly shall collect all administrative fees imposed under this
86 subsection and deposit them monthly with the State Treasurer, in
87 the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as
88 nearly as practicable, as required for the collection, receipt and
89 deposit of state assessments under Section 99-19-73. However, all
90 administrative fees collected under the provisions of this
91 subsection shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the account
92 of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and may be
93 expended by the department upon appropriation by the Legislature.

94 (7) Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name
95 or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is
96 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand
97 Dollars (\$2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed
98 one (1) year_ or both.

99 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
100 and after July 1, 2007.