

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2783

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:
9 49-7-31. (1) The open season on deer shall be as follows:
10 (a) With bow and arrow: October 1 through the Friday
11 prior to Thanksgiving.
12 (b) With guns and with dogs: From the Saturday prior
13 to Thanksgiving through December 1.
14 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December
15 2 through December 15.
16 (d) With guns and without dogs: December 16 through
17 December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting statewide
18 or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may designate
19 without dogs after the end of the last season for hunting deer
20 with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal designated
21 weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond January 31.
22 (e) The commission shall establish an extended season
23 with primitive weapons and bow and arrow without dogs from
24 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway
25 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. Any
26 antlered deer taken in this area during any open season under this
27 section must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For
28 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a
29 deer * * * with a minimum inside spread of ten (10) inches or a
30 minimum main beam length of thirteen (13) inches. The commission
31 may delay the opening date and change the length of bow and arrow
32 season in paragraph (1)(a) in this area.

33 (f) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through a
34 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of
35 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when
36 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns
37 and with dogs in paragraph (b).

38 (2) The commission may set and regulate the deer seasons on
39 wildlife management areas which it administers.

40 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of
41 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation
42 of the executive director based upon good and substantial
43 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that
44 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

45 (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the
46 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer
47 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote
48 of the commission.

49 (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting
50 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands
51 under a deer management program prescribed or approved by the
52 executive director.

53 (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the
54 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.
55 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the
56 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may
57 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who
58 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem
59 wildlife.

60 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:

62 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game
63 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by
64 the Legislature by statute.

65 (2) (a) The bag limit on antlered deer is one (1) per day,
66 not to exceed three (3) per license year. An antlered deer must
67 have antlers of four (4) points or greater to be taken except as

68 provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection. The
69 commission shall perform a comprehensive study on the creation of
70 deer management zones, including data on bag limits, antler
71 restrictions, establishing a reporting bagging system and
72 supplemental feeding programs on a statewide basis and conducting
73 meetings throughout to educate the hunting populace to receive
74 input from the hunters.

75 (b) Any antlered deer may be taken by permit when it is
76 necessary to manage deer on lands under the deer management
77 assistance program or wildlife management areas. A written
78 management justification issued by the Department of Wildlife,
79 Fisheries and Parks must accompany any request for such a permit.
80 Any antlered deer harvested under this permit must be identified
81 with a tag immediately upon possession. Antlered deer taken by
82 permit shall not be subject to the daily bag limit or the annual
83 bag limit on antlered deer. The department shall include a report
84 on permits issued, to whom issued and deer harvested in the
85 department's annual deer program report.

86 (c) One (1) antlered deer with less than four (4)
87 points may be taken per license year on private lands by a person
88 less than sixteen (16) years old.

89 (3) (a) The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per
90 day, not to exceed three (3) per license year; except that two (2)
91 additional antlerless deer per license year may be taken with a
92 bow and arrow. Antlerless deer may be taken only in the areas
93 prescribed by order of the commission. It is illegal to take a
94 spotted fawn in any season.

95 (b) It is unlawful for a nonresident to kill an
96 antlerless deer except: (i) a nonresident may take antlerless
97 deer on lands that the title is vested in the nonresident or on
98 lands that the nonresident has leased the hunting and fishing
99 rights; or (ii) a nonresident who has a native son or daughter
100 nonresident lifetime sportsman license or a resident lifetime
101 sportsman license may take antlerless deer on private lands,
102 wildlife management areas or national wildlife refuges.

103 (4) The bag limit on antlerless deer set by this section
104 shall not apply to private lands under the deer management
105 assistance program or the fee-based antlerless program as approved
106 by the department.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 49-7-31 AND 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE MINIMUM ANTLER SIZE RESTRICTIONS FOR
3 HUNTING DEER; TO FURTHER AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE
4 OF 1972, TO CLARIFY ANNUAL BAG LIMIT ON ANTLERLESS DEER; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

HR03\SB2783A.1J

Don Richardson
Clerk of the House of Representatives