

By: Representative Nicholson

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1121  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXTEND THE OPEN SEASON ON HUNTING DEER WITH ARCHERY EQUIPMENT FROM  
3 OCTOBER 1 THROUGH JANUARY 31; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 49-7-31. (1) The open season on deer shall be as follows:

8 (a) With archery equipment: October 1 through January  
9 31, provided, however, that the hunter must wear in full view at  
10 least five hundred (500) square inches of solid unbroken  
11 fluorescent orange as required by Section 49-7-31.1, when hunting  
12 deer during any open gun season. The commission shall have the  
13 authority to define what constitutes archery equipment.

14 (b) With guns and with dogs: from the Saturday prior  
15 to Thanksgiving through December 1.

16 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December  
17 2 through December 15.

18 (d) With guns and without dogs: December 16 through  
19 December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting statewide  
20 or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may designate  
21 without dogs after the end of the last season for hunting deer  
22 with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal designated  
23 weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond January 31.

24 (e) The commission shall establish an extended season  
25 with primitive weapons and archery equipment without dogs from  
26 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway  
27 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. Any



28 antlered deer taken in this area during any open season under this  
29 section must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For  
30 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a deer  
31 with antlers of four (4) points or more with a minimum inside  
32 spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam length of  
33 thirteen (13) inches. The commission may regulate the taking of  
34 deer with antlers of four (4) points or less under this paragraph  
35 for the proper management of antlered deer. The commission may  
36 delay the opening date and change the length of bow and arrow  
37 season in subsection (1) (a) in this area.

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

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

45 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of  
46 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation  
47 of the executive director based upon good and substantial  
48 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that  
49 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

50 (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the  
51 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer  
52 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote  
53 of the commission.

54 (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting  
55 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands  
56 under the deer management assistance program prescribed or  
57 approved by the executive director.

58 (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the  
59 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.  
60 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the



61 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may  
62 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who  
63 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem  
64 wildlife.

65         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
66 and after July 1, 2011.

