

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2555

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF FARM-RAISED WHITE-TAILED
2 DEER, SEMEN, OVA AND EMBRYOS INTO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FROM
3 HERDS THAT ARE CERTIFIED FREE OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND ARE
4 NOT LOCATED NEAR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE ENDEMIC AREAS; TO ALLOW
5 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEER-BREEDING FARMS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-1,
6 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; TO PROVIDE THAT CHAPTER 7 OF
7 TITLE 49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, DOES NOT APPLY TO FARM-RAISED
8 WHITE-TAILED DEER CONTAINED IN BREEDING FACILITIES OR TO
9 DEER-BREEDING FARMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following words shall mean:

12 (a) "Commercial purpose" means the breeding, keeping,
13 raising, buying, selling, trading or transferring ownership of
14 farm-raised white-tailed deer.

15 (b) "Deer-breeding farm" means a permitted enclosure
16 used to breed or raise farm-raised white-tailed deer for a
17 commercial purpose.

18 (c) "Farm-raised white-tailed deer" means any animal of
19 the species and genus *odocoileus virginianus* which is bred, born,
20 raised or kept on a deer-breeding farm for a commercial purpose.

21 (d) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
22 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the Mississippi Commission on
23 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

24 **SECTION 2.** (1) The licensee of a deer-breeding farm may
25 purchase, sell or transfer farm-raised white-tailed deer to other
26 licensed deer-breeding farms and permitted high-fence wildlife
27 hunting enclosures and for commercial purposes.

28 (2) Farm-raised white-tailed deer are deemed to be the
29 property of the licensee of a deer-breeding farm or wildlife
30 hunting enclosure and not property of the state.



31 (3) The minimum acreage required for the establishment of a
32 white-tailed deer-breeding farm shall be five (5) continuous
33 acres. The department may approve smaller farms upon application.

34 **SECTION 3.** A licensee of a deer-breeding farm or permitted
35 white-tailed deer hunting enclosure may import farm-raised
36 white-tailed deer, semen, ova and embryos into the state. Deer
37 imported into the state must meet the following requirements:

38 (a) The herd of origin has participated in a chronic
39 wasting disease monitoring program for at least five (5) years and
40 is certified free of chronic wasting disease and must be at least
41 twenty-five (25) miles from any area that has had any history of
42 chronic wasting disease, and is not in an area that is currently
43 endemic;

44 (b) Have an entry permit issued by the department's
45 office no more than thirty (30) days before entry into the state;

46 (c) Have written proof of a negative test for
47 brucellosis or originate from a brucellosis certified free herd,
48 or state, as required by federal regulations;

49 (d) Have written proof of a negative test for
50 tuberculosis or originate from a tuberculosis accredited herd, or
51 state, as may be required by federal regulations;

52 **SECTION 4.** Section 49-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
53 amended as follows:

54 49-7-1. For the purposes of this chapter, the following
55 definitions and interpretations shall govern unless otherwise
56 provided:

57 (a) The following wild animals are classed as game:
58 bear, white-tailed deer, rabbits and squirrels.

59 (b) The following wild animals are classed as
60 fur-bearing animals: muskrats, opossums, otters, weasels, minks,
61 raccoons and bobcats.

62 (c) The following wild animals are classed as nuisance
63 animals: wild hogs, nutria, beaver, fox, skunks and coyote.



64 (d) All freshwater fish in the following families are
65 classed as game fish: Sunfish family (Centrarchidae) - including
66 largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), smallmouth bass
67 (*Micropterus dolomieu*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*),
68 white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*), black crappie (*Pomoxis*
69 *nigromaculatus*), redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*), bluegill
70 (*Lepomis macrochirus*), warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*), green sunfish
71 (*Lepomis cyanellus*), longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*),
72 redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*) and shadow bass (*Ambloplites*
73 *arionmus*); Perch family (Percidae) - including walleye
74 (*Stizostedion vitreum*), sauger (*Stizostedion canadense*) and yellow
75 perch (*Perca flavescens*); Pike family (Esocidae) - including
76 redbfin pickerel (*Esox americanus americanus*), grass pickerel (*Esox*
77 *americanus vermiculatus*), chain pickerel (*Esox niger*); Temperate
78 bass family (Moronidae) including - white bass (*Morone chrysops*),
79 yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), striped bass (*Morone*
80 *saxatilis*) and hybrid striped bass (*Morone chrysops* x *Morone*
81 *saxatilis* and/or *Morone saxatilis* x *Morone chrysops*).

82 The following fish are classed as nongame gross fish: in the
83 Herring family (Clupeidae) - gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*),
84 threadfin shad (*Dorosoma petenense*); in the Catfish family
85 (Ictaluridae) - channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), blue
86 catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), flathead catfish (*Pylodictus*
87 *olivaris*), yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*), black bullhead
88 (*Ameiurus melas*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*); in the Gar
89 family - spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), longnose gar
90 (*Lepisosteus osseus*), shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*),
91 alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*); in the Eel family
92 (Anguillidae) - American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*); in the Bowfin
93 family (Amiidae) - bowfin (*Amia calva*); in the Paddlefish family
94 (Polyodontidae) - paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*); in the Minnow
95 family (Cyprinidae) - common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*); in the Sucker
96 family (Catostomidae) - river carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*),



97 quillback (*Carpoides cyprinus*), highfin carpsucker (*Carpoides*
98 *velifer*), spotted sucker (*Minytrema melanops*), blacktail redhorse
99 (*Moxostoma poecilurum*), smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*),
100 bigmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus cyprinellus*), black buffalo (*Ictiobus*
101 *niger*); in the Drum family (*Sciaenidae*) - freshwater drum
102 (*Aplodinotus grunniens*).

103 All fish native to Mississippi that are not classed as game
104 fish or nongame gross fish are classed as nongame fish.

105 All fish native to foreign countries and all fish native to
106 the United States but not native to Mississippi are classed as
107 nonnative fish.

108 (e) The following are classed as game birds: geese,
109 brant ducks, rails, coots, snipe, gallinules, moorhens, woodcock,
110 crow, mergansers, wild turkey, quail and doves.

111 All other species of wild resident or migratory birds are
112 classed as nongame birds.

113 (f) Closed season: the time during which birds,
114 animals or fish may not be taken.

115 (g) Open season: the time during which birds, animals
116 or fish may be lawfully taken.

117 (h) "Commission" means the Mississippi Commission on
118 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

119 (i) Deer means wild white-tailed deer and does not
120 include farm-raised white-tailed deer that are housed inside
121 permitted breeding farms.

122 (j) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
123 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

124 (k) "Executive director" means the Executive Director
125 of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

126 **SECTION 5.** Chapter 7, Title 49, Mississippi Code of 1972,
127 shall not apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer on deer-breeding
128 farms regulated by the department.



129 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
130 and after July 1, 2012.

