

By: Representative Morgan

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1028

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND
3 PARKS TO DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC HARVEST REPORTING PROGRAM FOR
4 WHITE-TAILED DEER AND WILD TURKEY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-26. (1) (a) The department * * * shall develop,
9 implement and regulate a * * * mandatory harvest reporting program
10 for white-tailed deer and/or wild turkey, to collect and compile
11 harvest data * * * of such quality and quantity as to be able to
12 assist the legislature and the commission in formulating the
13 wildlife resource conservation policy for the State of
14 Mississippi. The harvest reporting program authorized by this
15 section shall be a system that will be simple and usable by all
16 sportsmen so as to promote compliance and accurate reporting and
17 may include, but not be limited to, such means as a mobile
18 smartphone application, oneline web-based reporting, or such other



19 electronic or digital method(s) as shall promote ease of use by
20 sportsmen.

21 * * *

22 (* * *b) The department shall provide an annual report
23 to the Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committees of the Senate and
24 the House of Representatives.

25 * * *

26 (* * *2) A person who violates any law or regulation * * *
27 implementing and/or regulating the * * * harvest reporting system
28 is guilty of a Class * * * II violation and shall be subject to
29 the fines provided in * * * Section 49-7-143. In addition, a
30 person shall be assessed the administrative fee prescribed in this
31 section.

32 (* * *3) (a) A person convicted of a first violation of
33 the * * * harvest reporting program shall be assessed an
34 administrative fee of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
35 nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), which shall be
36 imposed and collected upon conviction. A person convicted of a
37 second or subsequent violation shall be assessed an administrative
38 fee of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than
39 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), which shall be imposed and
40 collected upon conviction.

41 (b) The clerk of the court shall collect and deposit
42 the administrative fees with the State Treasurer, in the same
43 manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as nearly as



44 practicable, as required for the collection and deposit of state
45 assessments under Section 99-19-73.

46 (c) The administrative fees shall be credited to the
47 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and may be expended by
48 the department upon appropriation by the Legislature.

49 (* * * 4) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in
50 violation of the * * * harvest reporting program is a separate
51 offense.

52 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2018.

