MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION 2017

By: Representative Morgan

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1028

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR TAGGING WHITE-TAILED DEER AND WILD TURKEY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

49-7-26. (1) (a) The department shall develop, implement and regulate a tagging and reporting program for white-tailed deer and wild turkey, to collect harvest data and monitor bag limit compliance by any means as provided in this section.

* * *

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

* * *

( * * *2) A person who violates any law or regulation of the tagging program is guilty of a Class II violation
and shall be subject to the fines provided in Section 49-7-143. In addition, a person shall be assessed the administrative fee prescribed in this section.

   (3) (a) A person convicted of a first violation of the tagging program shall be assessed an administrative fee of not less than One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), which shall be imposed and collected upon conviction. A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation shall be assessed an administrative fee of not less than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), which shall be imposed and collected upon conviction.

   (b) The clerk of the court shall collect and deposit the administrative fees with the State Treasurer, in the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as nearly as practicable, as required for the collection and deposit of state assessments under Section 99-19-73.

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

   (4) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in violation of the tagging program is a separate offense.

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