

By: Representative Morgan

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1028
(As Passed the House)

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

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) (a) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
7 Fisheries and Parks shall develop, implement and regulate a
8 mandatory harvest reporting program for white-tailed deer and/or
9 wild turkey, to collect and compile harvest data of such quality
10 and quantity as to be able to assist the Legislature and the
11 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in formulating the
12 wildlife resource conservation policy for the State of
13 Mississippi. The harvest reporting program authorized by this
14 section shall be a system that will be simple and usable by all
15 sportsmen so as to promote compliance and accurate reporting and
16 may include, but is not limited to, such means as a mobile smart
17 phone application, online web-based reporting, or such other
18 electronic or digital methods as shall promote ease of use by
19 sportsmen.



20 (b) The department shall provide an annual report of
21 the harvest reporting program to the Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
22 Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

23 (2) A person who violates any law or regulation implementing
24 and/or regulating the harvest reporting system is guilty of a
25 Class II violation and shall be subject to the fines provided in
26 Section 49-7-143.

27 (3) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in violation of
28 the harvest reporting program is a separate offense.

29 **SECTION 2.** No funds appropriated to the Mississippi
30 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be expended on
31 the tagging program established in Section 49-7-26.

32 **SECTION 3.** Section 49-7-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 amended as follows:

34 49-7-26. (1) (a) The department * * * shall develop,
35 implement and regulate a * * * mandatory harvest reporting program
36 for white-tailed deer and/or wild turkey, to collect and compile
37 harvest data * * * of such quality and quantity as to be able to
38 assist the legislature and the commission in formulating the
39 wildlife resource conservation policy for the State of
40 Mississippi. The harvest reporting program authorized by this
41 section shall be a system that will be simple and usable by all
42 sportsmen so as to promote compliance and accurate reporting and
43 may include, but not be limited to, such means as a mobile
44 smartphone application, oneline web-based reporting, or such other



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

47 * * *

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

51 * * *

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

58 (* * *3) (a) A person convicted of a first violation of
59 the * * * harvest reporting program shall be assessed an
60 administrative fee of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
61 nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), which shall be
62 imposed and collected upon conviction. A person convicted of a
63 second or subsequent violation shall be assessed an administrative
64 fee of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than
65 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), which shall be imposed and
66 collected upon conviction.

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



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

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

75 (* * * 4) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in
76 violation of the * * * harvest reporting program is a separate
77 offense.

78 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
79 and after July 1, 2018.

