

By: Representative Boyd

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 152

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE,
 2 FISHERIES AND PARKS TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY
 3 CHANGES AFFECTING HUNTING, FISHING AND WILDLIFE GAMING IN A
 4 NEWSPAPER HAVING GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE AFFECTED COUNTY OR
 5 STATE; TO SPECIFY THE FREQUENCY AND FORMAT OF THE PUBLICATION OF
 6 SUCH NOTICE; TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO
 7 REQUEST A PUBLIC MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION
 8 WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE THIRD WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE
 9 NOTICE; TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD TO RESIDENTS OF AFFECTED
 10 COUNTIES TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE COMMISSION EXPRESSING
 11 APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE, ITS NECESSITY AND
 12 IMPACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) Upon the decision of the Mississippi
 15 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to impose new
 16 regulations or revise existing hunting, fishing and wild game
 17 regulations in any county or within the state in its entirety, the
 18 commission shall provide public notice at least once a week for at
 19 least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published within
 20 the affected county of the proposed regulatory change, or if no
 21 newspaper is published in that county, then in a newspaper having
 22 a general circulation in the county. Public notice in the
 23 instance of a statewide regulation must be published at least once



24 a week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper
25 having mass statewide circulation. The size of the notice must be
26 no smaller than one-fourth (1/4) of a standard newspaper page and
27 must be printed in bold print. The notice must begin as follows:
28 "By authority of Section 49-4-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
29 amended, adopted by the Mississippi Legislature during the 1989
30 Regular Session, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries
31 and Parks, in the performance of its powers and duties, has
32 proposed a new regulation and/or change in regulations relating to
33 wildlife gaming activities in [_____ County(ies)/State
34 of Mississippi] as follows: [provide language of regulation
35 change.]" The notice also may include, in the discretion of the
36 commission, any or all details relating to the purpose of the
37 regulation and the duration of the proposed change's effect.
38 Public notices issued under this section are subject to Section
39 13-3-31 and are not contrary to other laws regarding newspaper
40 publication.

41 (2) (a) In addition to the notice required under subsection
42 (1) of this section, any county affected by a proposed regulatory
43 change of the commission must be given reasonable opportunity to
44 conduct a community-wide meeting at the request of the county
45 board of supervisors with representatives of the commission to
46 discuss the necessity of and the impact of the regulation within
47 that county. The meeting must be requested no later than fifteen
48 (15) days after the third weekly publication of the notice of the



49 proposed change required under subsection (1). If no meeting is
50 requested within the first fifteen (15) days after the third
51 weekly publication, residents of the county must be afforded
52 fifteen (15) additional days to provide comments to the commission
53 expressing the approval or disapproval of the proposed regulatory
54 change.

55 (b) If multiple counties are affected by the
56 commission's proposed regulatory change, the boards of supervisors
57 of those affected counties shall coordinate a joint meeting of the
58 counties with representatives of the commission for the purposes
59 specified in paragraph (a). The times stipulated in paragraph (a)
60 for the requesting of meetings and public commentary are
61 applicable to multiple counties acting jointly under this
62 paragraph.

63 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after its passage.

