

By: Representative Boyd

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 272

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND  
 3 PARKS TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN SECTIONS WITHIN SELECTED WILDLIFE  
 4 MANAGEMENT AREAS AS ZONES FOR HUNTING DEER WITH DOGS DURING ANY  
 5 REGULATED DEER SEASON; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.5, MISSISSIPPI  
 6 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN  
 7 SECTIONS WITHIN SELECTED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AS ZONES FOR  
 8 HUNTING WILD HOGS WITH DOGS; TO REQUIRE HUNTERS, WHEN HUNTING WILD  
 9 HOGS DURING ANY SEASON ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION FOR HUNTING  
 10 DEER ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, TO WEAR IN FULL VIEW AT LEAST  
 11 FIVE HUNDRED SQUARE INCHES OF SOLID UNBROKEN FLUORESCENT ORANGE;  
 12 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 15 amended as follows:

16 49-7-31. (1) The open season on deer shall be as follows:

17 (a) With bow and arrow: October 1 through the Friday  
 18 prior to Thanksgiving.

19 (b) With guns and with dogs: from the Saturday prior  
 20 to Thanksgiving through December 1.

21 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December  
 22 2 through December 15.



23           (d) With guns and without dogs: December 16 through  
24 December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting statewide  
25 or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may designate  
26 without dogs after the end of the last season for hunting deer  
27 with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal designated  
28 weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond January 31.

29           (e) The commission shall establish an extended season  
30 with primitive weapons and bow and arrow without dogs from  
31 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway  
32 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. Any  
33 antlered deer taken in this area during any open season under this  
34 section must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For  
35 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a deer  
36 with antlers of four (4) points or more with a minimum inside  
37 spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam length of  
38 thirteen (13) inches. The commission may regulate the taking of  
39 deer with antlers of four (4) points or less under this paragraph  
40 for the proper management of antlered deer. The commission may  
41 delay the opening date and change the length of bow and arrow  
42 season in subsection (1) (a) in this area.

43           (f) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through a  
44 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of  
45 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when  
46 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns  
47 and with dogs in paragraph (b).



48           (2)   (a)   The commission may set and regulate the deer  
49 seasons on wildlife management areas which it administers.

50                   (b)   The commission may designate certain locations  
51 within selected wildlife management areas that it administers as  
52 zones for hunting deer with dogs during any regulated deer season  
53 set for the particular wildlife management area in which a zone is  
54 being established. The commission shall define each hunting zone  
55 created pursuant to this paragraph clearly by describing the  
56 specific boundaries in which hunting deer with dogs may occur.

57           (3)   (a)   The commission may allow the harvesting of  
58 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation  
59 of the executive director based upon good and substantial  
60 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that  
61 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

62                   (b)   The commission, only upon the recommendation of the  
63 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer  
64 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote  
65 of the commission.

66                   (c)   Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting  
67 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands  
68 under the deer management assistance program prescribed or  
69 approved by the executive director.

70           (4)   The commission may provide a special permit for the  
71 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.  
72 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the



73 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may  
74 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who  
75 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem  
76 wildlife.

77 (5) (a) During any open season on deer with primitive  
78 weapons after November 30, a person may use any legal weapon of  
79 choice on private lands only, if the person is:

80 (i) The title owner of the land;

81 (ii) The lessee of the hunting rights on the land;

82 (iii) A member of a hunting club leasing the  
83 hunting rights on the land; or

84 (iv) A guest of a person specified in subparagraph  
85 (i), (ii) or (iii).

86 (b) If the person is required to have a hunting  
87 license, the person must have a primitive weapon license,  
88 Sportsman's License or a Lifetime Sportsman's License.

89 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-31.5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
90 amended as follows:

91 49-7-31.5. (1) The hunting, trapping and taking of nuisance  
92 animals shall be regulated by the commission. The commission may  
93 adopt regulations to regulate the hunting, trapping and taking of  
94 nuisance animals and to control the population of nuisance  
95 animals.



96 (2) (a) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their  
97 designated agents may take predatory and nuisance animals  
98 year-round on lands owned or leased by them.

99 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their  
100 designated agents may take nuisance animals with any type of  
101 weapon and may take nuisance animals during the night after legal  
102 hunting hours on lands owned or leased by them with a permit  
103 issued by the department.

104 (c) No license is required for a resident landowner  
105 hunting or trapping nuisance animals on his own land. An  
106 agricultural leaseholder, designated agent and any other person  
107 must possess either an all-game hunting license or trapping  
108 license, unless otherwise exempt.

109 (d) No license is required for a recipient of the  
110 Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat, to hunt nuisance  
111 animals on private lands. Persons exempt from purchasing a  
112 hunting license under this paragraph shall have in their  
113 possession and on their person a copy of their DD-214 discharge  
114 form indicating the receipt of the Purple Heart Medal and any  
115 proof as may be required by the commission or the Department of  
116 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, while engaged in such activities.

117 (3) The taking of any animal or animals other than nuisance  
118 animals by the use of a trap or traps is unlawful except during  
119 the time the season is open for the taking of fur-bearing animals.



120 (4) Nuisance animals may be run, chased or pursued with  
121 dogs, except as provided in Section 49-7-32, year-round by  
122 licensed hunters.

123 (5) Nuisance animals may be hunted with the aid of  
124 electronic calls.

125 (6) Nuisance animals may be hunted or trapped with the aid  
126 of bait and lures, on private lands, according to regulations  
127 adopted by the commission.

128 (7) Any part of a nuisance animal may be bought and sold  
129 year-round.

130 (8) (a) Wild hogs may not be caught or trapped and released  
131 into the wild at a location different from the location where the  
132 wild hog was caught or trapped.

133 (b) A violation of this subsection is a Class I  
134 violation and is punishable as provided under Section 49-7-141.

135 (9) When hunting wild hogs during any open gun season on  
136 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)  
137 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

138 (10) The commission may designate certain locations within  
139 selected wildlife management areas that it administers as zones  
140 for hunting wild hogs with dogs, which zones must be defined  
141 clearly by specific boundaries established by the commission.  
142 When hunting wild hogs during any season set by the commission for  
143 hunting deer in a wildlife management area, a hunter must adhere



144 to the safety requirements prescribed under subsection (9) of this  
145 section.

146           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
147 and after July 1, 2018.

