

By: Representative Morgan

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1188

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO CREATE
3 AN ELECTRONIC HARVEST REPORTING PROGRAM FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER AND
4 WILD TURKEY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT EXPEND FUNDS
5 ON A TAGGING PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 49-7-26. (1) (a) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
10 Fisheries and Parks * * * shall develop, implement and regulate
11 a * * * mandatory harvest reporting program for white-tailed deer
12 and wild turkey or both. The purpose of this program is to
13 collect and compile harvest data * * * of such quality and
14 quantity as to be able to assist the Legislature and the
15 commission in formulating the wildlife resource conservation
16 policy for the State of Mississippi.

17 (b) * * * The harvest reporting program shall be simple
18 to use by sportsmen so as to promote compliance and accurate
19 reporting. The program may include, but is not limited to, such



20 means as a mobile smartphone application, online web-based
21 reporting, or such other electronic or digital methods as will
22 promote ease of use.

23 (c) The department shall provide an annual report for
24 the harvest reporting program to the Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
25 Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

26 * * *

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

