

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2922

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO
3 ESTABLISH A MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING PROGRAM FOR WHITE-TAILED
4 DEER AND TURKEY TO COLLECT AND COMPILE HARVEST DATA TO ASSIST IN
5 THE FORMULATION OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE CONSERVATION POLICY FOR
6 THE STATE; TO REQUIRE SPORTSMEN TO REPORT THE HARVEST WITHIN 72
7 HOURS AFTER THE HARVEST; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT
8 SHALL NOT APPLY TO DEER HARVESTED ON PRIVATE LANDS THAT ARE UNDER
9 THE DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT NO FUNDS
10 APPROPRIATED TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES
11 AND PARKS SHALL BE EXPENDED ON A TAGGING REPORTING PROGRAM; AND
12 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

16 49-7-26. (1) * * * The * * * commission * * * shall
17 develop, implement and regulate a * * * mandatory harvest
18 reporting program for white-tailed deer and/or turkey to collect
19 and compile harvest data * * * of such quality and quantity as to
20 be able to assist the Legislature and the commission in
21 formulating the wildlife resource conservation policy for the
22 State of Mississippi. The harvest reporting program authorized by
23 this section shall be a system that will be simple and usable by



24 all hunters so as to promote compliance and accurate reporting and
25 may include, but not be limited to, such means as a mobile smart
26 phone application, online web-based reporting, or such other
27 electronic or digital methods that promote ease of use by hunters.

28 (2) Hunters shall report deer and turkey that they harvest
29 within seventy-two (72) hours after the harvest. This subsection
30 shall not apply to deer harvested on private lands that are under
31 the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

32 (* * *3) The department shall provide an annual report
33 regarding the harvest reporting program to the Wildlife, Fisheries
34 and Parks Committees of the Senate and the House of
35 Representatives.

36 * * *

37 (* * *4) Each * * * violation of this section or of any
38 rule or regulation promulgated under this section is a separate
39 offense. A violation of this section is a Class III violation and
40 shall be punished as provided for in Section 49-7-101(1).

41 **SECTION 2.** No funds appropriated to the Mississippi
42 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be expended on a
43 tagging program to report the harvesting of wildlife.

44 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after March 1, 2019.

