

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2035
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO
3 DECLARE SPECIAL SEASONS, WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED OPEN
4 SEASONS, FOR COLLECTING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING SAMPLES;
5 TO ESTABLISH AIR GUNS, AIR BOWS AND PRE-CHARGED PNEUMATIC WEAPONS
6 AS LAWFUL MEANS OF HUNTING GAME; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO
7 DEFINE AIR GUNS, AIR BOWS AND PRE-CHARGED PNEUMATIC WEAPONS
8 SUITABLE FOR HUNTING GAME; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 49-7-37. (1) Any resident of this state licensed to hunt or
13 otherwise take any legal game bird or game animal in this state by
14 or with the use of firearms, may hunt, kill, shoot or otherwise
15 take game animals or game birds by the use of falcons or hawks as
16 may be prescribed by the commission and in compliance with federal
17 guidelines.

18 (2) (a) The commission may extend the special archery
19 seasons on any public hunting projects, game refuges or prescribed
20 areas having surplus deer populations.



21 (b) The commission may declare a special season in any
22 area of the state where the need to collect samples for testing
23 for chronic wasting disease (CWD) is indicated. Special seasons
24 for collecting CWD testing samples may be set within the open
25 season or, if necessary, outside the open season. Lawful weapons
26 for hunting during any special CWD sample collection season shall
27 be consistent with the then-current open season or, if outside the
28 open season, as directed by order of the commission.

29 (3) The killing by primitive firearms of an antlerless deer
30 or any other deer protected during the regular deer season is
31 prohibited, but the commission may designate areas of the state in
32 which the killing of antlerless deer may be permitted or limited.

33 (4) The commission may make reasonable rules and regulations
34 concerning the special seasons with falcons and hawks, bow and
35 arrow * * *, primitive firearms, air guns, air bows and
36 pre-charged pneumatic weapons which it deems necessary and proper.
37 The commission shall define the terms "primitive firearm," "air
38 gun," "air bow" and "pre-charged pneumatic weapon" for purposes of
39 this section and other law or regulation.

40 (5) Air guns shall be lawful for hunting small game during
41 the seasons for hunting small game. Air bows and pre-charged
42 pneumatic weapons shall be lawful for hunting large game, except
43 game birds, turkeys and migratory waterfowl. Air bows and
44 pre-charged pneumatic weapons may be used during any open season



45 on deer with primitive weapons after November 30, on private lands
46 only, consistent with the requirements of Section 49-7-31(5)(a).

47 (* * *6) The use of dogs shall be prohibited for hunting
48 deer during any of the special hunting seasons.

49 (* * *7) In addition to a hunting license allowing the
50 taking of deer, any resident desiring to hunt deer with bow and
51 arrow or primitive firearm during primitive weapon or archery
52 season or special hunts established by the commission shall
53 purchase a special resident archery and/or primitive firearms
54 license at a fee of Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00) for each license
55 plus the fee provided in Section 49-7-17.

56 (* * *8) Any person violating this section is guilty of a
57 Class II violation and shall be punished as provided in Section
58 49-7-143.

59 (* * *9) All seasons provided for herein shall begin on
60 Saturday.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 2021.

