

By: Representative Holloway (By Request)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 177

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT USING DOGS FOR HUNTING DEER; TO AMEND  
2 SECTIONS 49-7-31 AND 49-7-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN  
3 CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer with  
6 dogs.

7 (2) A violation of this section shall be punishable as a  
8 Class I violation as defined in Section 49-7-141.

9 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 49-7-31. (1) The open season on deer shall be as follows:

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

14 (b) With guns \* \* \*: from the Saturday prior to  
15 Thanksgiving through December 1, and from December 16 through a  
16 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of  
17 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns.



18 (c) With primitive weapons \* \* \*: December 2 through  
19 December 15.

20 \* \* \*

21 ( \* \* \*d) The commission shall establish an extended  
22 season with primitive weapons and bow and arrow \* \* \* from  
23 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway  
24 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. Any  
25 antlered deer taken in this area during any open season under this  
26 section must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For  
27 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a deer  
28 with antlers of four (4) points or more with a minimum inside  
29 spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam length of  
30 thirteen (13) inches. The commission may regulate the taking of  
31 deer with antlers of four (4) points or less under this paragraph  
32 for the proper management of antlered deer. The commission may  
33 delay the opening date and change the length of bow and arrow  
34 season in \* \* \* paragraph (a) in this area.

35 \* \* \*

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

38 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of  
39 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation  
40 of the executive director based upon good and substantial  
41 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that  
42 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.



43           (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the  
44 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer  
45 during the deer season with guns \* \* \* by a majority vote of the  
46 commission.

47           (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting  
48 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands  
49 under the deer management assistance program prescribed or  
50 approved by the executive director.

51           (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the  
52 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.  
53 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the  
54 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may  
55 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who  
56 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem  
57 wildlife.

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

61                       (i) The title owner of the land;

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

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

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



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

70           **SECTION 3.** Section 49-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
71 amended as follows:

72           49-7-37. (1) Any resident of this state licensed to hunt or  
73 otherwise take any legal game bird or game animal in this state by  
74 or with the use of firearms, may hunt, kill, shoot or otherwise  
75 take game animals or game birds by the use of falcons or hawks as  
76 may be prescribed by the commission and in compliance with federal  
77 guidelines.

78           (2) The commission may extend the special archery seasons on  
79 any public hunting projects, game refuges or prescribed areas  
80 having surplus deer populations.

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

85           (4) The commission may make reasonable rules and regulations  
86 concerning the special seasons with falcons and hawks, bow and  
87 arrow and primitive firearms which it deems necessary and proper.  
88 The commission shall define the term "primitive firearm" for  
89 purposes of this section and other law or regulation.

90           \* \* \*



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

98 ( \* \* \*6) Any person violating this section is guilty of a  
99 Class II violation and shall be punished as provided in Section  
100 49-7-143.

101 ( \* \* \*7) All seasons provided for herein shall begin on  
102 Saturday.

103 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104 and after July 1, 2022.

