

By: Representatives Morgan, Hale

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 258

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 A HARVEST REPORTING PROGRAM FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER AND WILD TURKEY;
4 TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE A PHYSICAL TAGGING PROGRAM
5 THAT IS SIMPLE TO USE BY SPORTSMEN SO AS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND
6 ACCURATE REPORTING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

18 (b) * * * The harvest reporting program shall be a
19 physical tagging program that is simple to use by sportsmen so as
20 to promote compliance and accurate reporting.



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

24 * * *

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

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

40 (b) The clerk of the court shall collect and deposit
41 the administrative fees with the State Treasurer, in the same
42 manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as nearly as
43 practicable, as required for the collection and deposit of state
44 assessments under Section 99-19-73.



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

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

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2022.

