

By: Representatives Morgan, Hale

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 258  
(As Passed the House)

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 PROGRAM SHALL BE SIMPLE TO USE BY  
5 SPORTSMEN SO AS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND ACCURATE REPORTING; AND  
6 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 electronic harvest reporting program for  
13 white-tailed deer and wild turkey or both. The purpose of this  
14 program is to collect and compile harvest data \* \* \* of such  
15 quality and quantity as to be able to assist the Legislature and  
16 the commission in formulating the wildlife resource conservation  
17 policy for the State of Mississippi.

18 (b) \* \* \* The harvest reporting program shall be an  
19 electronic tagging program that is simple to use by sportsmen so  
20 as 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, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2022.

