

By: Representative Rushing

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 944

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE HUNTERS TO WEAR SOLID UNBROKEN FLUORESCENT PINK AS AN
3 ALTERNATIVE TO FLUORESCENT ORANGE WHEN HUNTING DEER DURING ANY GUN
4 SEASON ON DEER; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
5 1972, TO AUTHORIZE HUNTERS TO WEAR SOLID UNBROKEN FLUORESCENT PINK
6 AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FLUORESCENT ORANGE WHEN HUNTING WILD HOGS
7 DURING ANY OPEN GUN SEASON ON DEER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 49-7-31.1. (1) When hunting deer during any gun season on
12 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)
13 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange or solid
14 unbroken fluorescent pink. This requirement shall not apply to a
15 hunter while the hunter is in a fully enclosed deer stand.

16 (2) A violation of this section is a Class III violation and
17 is punishable as provided in Section 49-7-101.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-31.5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:



20 49-7-31.5. (1) The hunting, trapping and taking of nuisance
21 animals shall be regulated by the commission. The commission may
22 adopt regulations to regulate the hunting, trapping and taking of
23 nuisance animals and to control the population of nuisance
24 animals.

25 (2) (a) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
26 designated agents may take predatory and nuisance animals
27 year-round on lands owned or leased by them.

28 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
29 designated agents may take nuisance animals with any type of
30 weapon and may take nuisance animals during the night after legal
31 hunting hours on lands owned or leased by them with a permit
32 issued by the department.

33 (c) No license is required for a resident landowner
34 hunting or trapping nuisance animals on his own land. An
35 agricultural leaseholder, designated agent and any other person
36 must possess either an all-game hunting license or trapping
37 license, unless otherwise exempt.

38 (d) No license is required for a recipient of the
39 Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat, to hunt nuisance
40 animals on private lands. Persons exempt from purchasing a
41 hunting license under this paragraph shall have in their
42 possession and on their person a copy of their DD-214 discharge
43 form indicating the receipt of the Purple Heart Medal and any



44 proof as may be required by the commission or the Department of
45 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, while engaged in such activities.

46 (3) The taking of any animal or animals other than nuisance
47 animals by the use of a trap or traps is unlawful except during
48 the time the season is open for the taking of fur-bearing animals.

49 (4) Nuisance animals may be run, chased or pursued with
50 dogs, except as provided in Section 49-7-32, year-round by
51 licensed hunters.

52 (5) Nuisance animals may be hunted with the aid of
53 electronic calls.

54 (6) Nuisance animals may be hunted or trapped with the aid
55 of bait and lures, on private lands, according to regulations
56 adopted by the commission.

57 (7) Any part of a nuisance animal may be bought and sold
58 year-round.

59 (8) (a) Wild hogs may not be caught or trapped and released
60 into the wild at a location different from the location where the
61 wild hog was caught or trapped.

62 (b) A violation of this subsection is a Class I
63 violation and is punishable as provided under Section 49-7-141.

64 (9) When hunting wild hogs during any open gun season on
65 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)
66 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange or solid
67 unbroken fluorescent pink.



68 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after July 1, 2022.

