

By: Representative Bounds

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 289

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCLUDE TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE LIST OF DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR  
3 USE OF THE REVENUE COLLECTED FROM ANY INCREASE IN HUNTING AND  
4 FISHING LICENSE FEES UNDER CHAPTER 418, LAWS 2016; TO BRING  
5 FORWARD SECTIONS 49-7-5 AND 49-7-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
6 WHICH RELATE TO HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, FOR PURPOSES OF  
7 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 49-7-7. The revenue collected from any increase in license  
12 fees pursuant to Chapter 418, Laws 2016, shall be designated for  
13 use by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for  
14 recruitment, training, training facilities, equipping and  
15 compensation of conservation officers to fill existing vacancies.

16 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
17 brought forward as follows:

18 49-7-5. (1) (a) Any resident, as defined in Section  
19 49-7-3, upon application, shall receive a combination resident  
20 hunting and fishing license for the sum of Twenty-five Dollars



21 (\$25.00). The license shall qualify the licensee to hunt under  
22 this chapter all game and fowl, including deer and turkey, and to  
23 fish in any county of the state.

24 (b) Any resident, as defined in Section 49-7-3, upon  
25 application, shall receive a resident combination small game  
26 hunting and fishing license for the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00)  
27 together with the fee provided in Section 49-7-17 to the office or  
28 agent issuing the license. The hunting license shall qualify the  
29 licensee to hunt and fish under this chapter all game and fowl,  
30 except deer and turkey, in any county in the state.

31 (c) Any resident, as defined in Section 49-7-3, upon  
32 application, shall receive a sportsman's license for the sum of  
33 Forty-five Dollars (\$45.00). The license shall qualify the  
34 licensee to hunt under this chapter all game and fowl, including  
35 deer and turkey, and to fish as provided by law, in any county in  
36 the state, and to hunt using primitive weapons and bow and arrow  
37 in the manner provided by law. The commission may notify the  
38 licensee of the expiration of his license, and the licensee may  
39 renew the license by mailing the sum of Forty-five Dollars  
40 (\$45.00) to the commission. A licensee who has not renewed the  
41 license within thirty (30) days after the expiration date shall be  
42 removed from the commission's records, and the licensee must apply  
43 to be placed on the renewal list.

44 (d) In addition to a hunting license allowing the  
45 taking of turkey, a resident who hunts turkey during a fall turkey



46 season must purchase a fall turkey hunting permit for a fee of  
47 Five Dollars (\$5.00) plus the fee provided in Section 49-7-17. A  
48 resident sportsman's licensee or resident lifetime sportsman's  
49 licensee may hunt during the fall turkey season without purchasing  
50 a permit.

51 (e) The commission may offer a resident apprentice  
52 hunting license for a resident who does not have the required  
53 certificate of hunter education and may set the fee for the  
54 apprentice hunting license. An apprentice license may be  
55 purchased only one (1) time by a resident and the apprentice  
56 hunting licensee must be accompanied by a licensed or exempt  
57 resident hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when  
58 hunting.

59 (2) (a) Any resident citizen of the State of Mississippi  
60 who has not reached the age of sixteen (16) years or who has  
61 reached the age of sixty-five (65) years, or any resident citizen  
62 who is blind, paraplegic, or a multiple amputee, or who has been  
63 adjudged by the Veterans Administration as having a total  
64 service-connected disability, or has been adjudged to be totally  
65 disabled by the Social Security Administration shall not be  
66 required to purchase or have in his possession, a hunting or  
67 fishing license while engaged in such activities. A person exempt  
68 by reason of total service-connected disability, as adjudged by  
69 the Veterans Administration or who has been adjudged to be totally  
70 disabled by the Social Security Administration or who is blind,



71 paraplegic or a multiple amputee, shall have in their possession  
72 and on their person proof of their age, residency, disability  
73 status or other respective physical impairment while engaged in  
74 the activities of hunting or fishing.

75 (b) Any resident who is a member of the Armed Forces,  
76 including the Reserves and National Guard, and on active duty  
77 outside the State of Mississippi is not required to purchase or  
78 have in his possession a hunting or fishing license while engaged  
79 in such activities on leave from active duty. The resident shall  
80 have in his possession and on his person any proof as may be  
81 required by the commission.

82 (c) All exempt hunting and fishing licenses previously  
83 issued for disabilities shall be null and void effective July 1,  
84 1993.

85 (d) The commission may offer a youth all-game hunting  
86 and fishing license for exempt youths who have a hunter education  
87 certificate and an all-game hunting and fishing license for other  
88 persons exempted under paragraph (a). Youths and other exempt  
89 persons shall not be required to purchase this license or have it  
90 in possession while hunting or fishing. The commission may  
91 establish a fee not to exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00) for the  
92 licenses.

93 (e) The requirement for purchasing and/or having a  
94 hunting or fishing license authorized in subsection (1) of this  
95 section may be waived for any resident or nonresident who is an



96 honorably discharged veteran with a combat-related disability and  
97 who will be participating in a special hunt, fishing trip or other  
98 outdoor recreational event that is available only to such persons  
99 as determined by the entity sponsoring the event. The commission  
100 is authorized to establish such criteria and/or procedures for an  
101 organization to be recognized as a sanctioned entity that provides  
102 unique outdoor recreational opportunities for wounded or disabled  
103 veterans. Any events sponsored by a recognized organization, and  
104 the persons participating in such event, shall be entitled to the  
105 waiver set forth above without further action on the part of the  
106 commission or the sponsoring organization.

107 (3) No license shall be required of residents to hunt, fish  
108 or trap on lands in which the record title is vested in such  
109 person.

110 (4) Any person or persons exempt under this section from  
111 procuring a license shall be subject to and must comply with all  
112 other terms and provisions of this chapter.

113 (5) Any person authorized to issue any license under this  
114 section may collect and retain for the issuance of each license  
115 the additional fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

116 **SECTION 3.** Section 49-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
117 brought forward as follows:

118 49-7-9. (1) (a) Each resident of the State of Mississippi,  
119 as defined in Section 49-7-3, fishing in the public fresh waters  
120 of the state, including lakes and reservoirs, but not including



121 privately owned ponds and streams, shall purchase a combination  
122 small game hunting and fishing license as provided in Section  
123 49-7-5 for Ten Dollars (\$10.00). Any resident purchasing a  
124 license as prescribed in this subsection shall be entitled to  
125 fish, in accordance with the regulations and ordinances of the  
126 commission, in all public fresh waters within the territory of the  
127 State of Mississippi.

128 (b) A resident may purchase a resident fishing license  
129 valid for a period of three (3) days for the sum of Three Dollars  
130 (\$3.00).

131 (c) No license shall be required of any resident  
132 citizen of the State of Mississippi who has not reached the age of  
133 sixteen (16) years or who has reached the age of sixty-five (65)  
134 years or who is blind, paraplegic, a multiple amputee or has been  
135 adjudged by the Veterans Administration as having a total  
136 service-connected disability, or has been adjudged totally  
137 disabled by the Social Security Administration. Such person shall  
138 not be required to purchase or have in his possession a hunting or  
139 fishing license while engaged in such activities.

140 (d) A person exempt by reason of age, total  
141 service-connected disability as adjudged by the Veterans  
142 Administration or total disability as adjudged by the Social  
143 Security Administration or who is blind, paraplegic or a multiple  
144 amputee, shall have in their possession and on their person proof  
145 of their age, residency, disability status or other respective



146 physical impairment while engaged in the activities of hunting or  
147 fishing.

148 (e) Any resident who is a member of the Armed Forces,  
149 including the Reserves and National Guard, and on active duty  
150 outside the State of Mississippi is not required to purchase or  
151 have in his possession a hunting or fishing license while engaged  
152 in such activities on leave from active duty. Such resident shall  
153 have in his possession and on his person such proof as may be  
154 required by the commission.

155 (f) The requirement for purchasing and/or having a  
156 hunting or fishing license authorized in this subsection (1) may  
157 be waived for any resident or nonresident who is an honorably  
158 discharged veteran with a combat-related disability and who will  
159 be participating in a special hunt, fishing trip or other outdoor  
160 recreational event that is available only to such persons as  
161 determined by the entity sponsoring the event. The commission is  
162 authorized to establish such criteria and/or procedures for an  
163 organization to be recognized as a sanctioned entity that provides  
164 unique outdoor recreational opportunities for wounded or disabled  
165 veterans. Any events sponsored by a recognized organization, and  
166 the persons participating in such event, shall be entitled to the  
167 waiver set forth above without further action on the part of the  
168 commission or the sponsoring organization.



169 (2) (a) All persons fishing in privately owned lakes or  
170 ponds shall have specific permission to do so from the owner of  
171 such lake or pond.

172 (b) Residents do not need a fishing license to fish in  
173 those waters, except when the owner of the lake or pond charges a  
174 fee for fishing, then a resident must have a fishing license to  
175 fish in those waters unless exempted under subsection (1) of this  
176 section.

177 (3) The first weekend of "National Fishing and Boating Week"  
178 in June of each year is designated as "Free Fishing Weekend."  
179 July 4 is designated as "Free Fishing Day." Any person may sport  
180 fish without a license on "Free Fishing Weekend," and on "Free  
181 Fishing Day."

182 (4) Any person authorized to issue any license under this  
183 section may collect and retain for issuing each license the  
184 additional fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

185 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
186 and after July 1, 2023.

