

By: Representatives Morgan, Blackwell,  
Bounds, Carpenter, Felsher, Hawkins, Keen,  
Kinkade, Lott, Pigott, Tubb

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1061

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE,  
2 FISHERIES AND PARKS TO DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC HARVEST REPORTING  
3 PROGRAM FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER AND/OR WILD TURKEY; TO BRING FORWARD  
4 SECTION 49-7-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF  
5 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
8 Fisheries and Parks shall develop, implement and regulate a  
9 mandatory harvest reporting program for white-tailed deer and/or  
10 wild turkey in order to collect and compile harvest data of such  
11 quality and quantity as to be able to assist the Legislature and  
12 the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in formulating the  
13 wildlife resource conservation policy for the State of  
14 Mississippi. The harvest reporting program required by this  
15 section must be a system that is simple and usable by all  
16 sportsmen so as to promote compliance and accurate reporting. The  
17 program may include, but need not be limited to, means such as a  
18 mobile smart phone application, online web-based reporting or



19 other electronic or digital methods that promote ease of use by  
20 sportsmen.

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

24 (2) A person who violates any law or regulation implementing  
25 and/or regulating the harvest reporting program is guilty of a  
26 Class II violation and is subject to the fines provided in Section  
27 49-7-143.

28 (3) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in violation of  
29 the harvest reporting program is a separate offense.

30 **SECTION 2.** Funds appropriated to the Mississippi Department  
31 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks may not be expended on the  
32 harvest reporting program established in Section 1 of this act.

33 **SECTION 3.** Section 49-7-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
34 brought forward as follows:

35 49-7-26. (1) (a) The department may develop, implement and  
36 regulate a tagging and reporting program to collect harvest data  
37 and monitor bag limit compliance by any means as provided in this  
38 section.

39 (b) The department may charge a fee for the tagging  
40 program.

41 (c) The department shall provide an annual report to  
42 the Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committees of the Senate and the  
43 House of Representatives.



44           (2)   (a)   The department may establish a tagging and  
45 reporting program for deer harvested by nonresidents.

46                   (b)   A nonresident who violates any law or regulation of  
47 the nonresident deer tagging program shall be subject to the fine  
48 and forfeiture penalties provided for a nonresident hunting  
49 without a license under Section 49-7-21. In addition, a  
50 nonresident shall be assessed the administrative fee prescribed in  
51 this section.

52           (3)   (a)   The department may establish a tagging and  
53 reporting program for turkey.

54                   (b)   A person who violates any law or regulation of the  
55 turkey tagging program is guilty of a Class III violation and  
56 shall be subject to the fines provided in 49-7-101. In addition,  
57 a person shall be assessed the administrative fee prescribed in  
58 this section.

59           (4)   (a)   A person convicted of a first violation of the  
60 tagging program shall be assessed an administrative fee of not  
61 less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred  
62 Dollars (\$500.00), which shall be imposed and collected upon  
63 conviction. A person convicted of a second or subsequent  
64 violation shall be assessed an administrative fee of not less than  
65 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars  
66 (\$1,000.00), which shall be imposed and collected upon conviction.

67                   (b)   The clerk of the court shall collect and deposit  
68 the administrative fees with the State Treasurer, in the same



69 manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as nearly as  
70 practicable, as required for the collection and deposit of state  
71 assessments under Section 99-19-73.

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

75 (5) Each deer or turkey taken or possessed in violation of  
76 the tagging program is a separate offense.

77 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
78 and after July 1, 2024.

