

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1298

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 SECTION 1. (1) For the purposes of this section, the
15 following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed
16 herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 (a) "Wild turkey" means the game bird *Meleagris*
18 *gallopavo*.

19 (b) "Stamp" means the state wild turkey stamp, either
20 in its physical or electronic form, furnished by the commission.
21 A stamp is a specialized permit required for hunting wild turkeys,
22 with proceeds directly dispersed into the conservation,
23 management, protection or scientific research of wild turkeys.

24 (c) "Harvest tag" means the electronic tool used to
25 serve as an inventory of the annual bag limit allotted to
26 individual wild turkey hunters. Harvest tags are invalidated upon
27 the harvest of a wild turkey.

28 (d) "Nongovernmental entity" means a nonprofit
29 organization primarily concerned with the protection and

30 conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its
31 organizational documents.

32 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person sixteen (16) years
33 of age or older to hunt or take wild turkeys during any open wild
34 turkey season in the State of Mississippi without first having
35 procured a stamp. The electronic stamp on file with the
36 commission shall serve as proof of procurement.

37 (3) The fee to nonresident hunters for each stamp shall be
38 Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). There shall be no fee for resident
39 hunters. Each stamp shall be valid through the final day of the
40 spring wild turkey season following its purchase. After its
41 expiration, another stamp must be procured in order to hunt or
42 take wild turkeys in a future open wild turkey season.

43 (4) The commission may make the procurement of harvest tags
44 dependent upon the purchase of a stamp.

45 (5) The commission shall determine the form of the stamp.
46 The commission shall furnish physical stamps to bonded agents for
47 issuance or sale in the same manner as other types of licenses or
48 shall cause the electronic stamp to accrue to the purchaser's
49 benefit when purchased from an automated point-of-sale source.

50 (6) Any person violating any of the provisions of this
51 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
52 shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more
53 than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) as prescribed in Section
54 49-7-101.

55 (7) All revenue from the proceeds of stamps shall be
56 deposited into the Wild Turkey Stamp Fund created in this section
57 and shall only be used and expended for the following objectives:

58 (a) Paying administrative or processing costs
59 associated with an electronic harvest tag program, or any other
60 program governing or regulating the harvest of wild turkeys;

61 (b) Restoring, enhancing or protecting wild turkey
62 populations or their habitats on public or private lands in
63 Mississippi as prescribed by the department;

64 (c) Funding scientific research, as conducted by
65 qualified professionals, into the ecology or management of wild
66 turkeys, their habitats or their predators; and

67 (d) Increasing access to publicly available turkey
68 hunting opportunities.

69 (8) Proceeds from stamps may be used as matching funds or
70 fiscal leverage to secure grants or other financial awards are
71 deemed to align with the objectives in subsection (7) of this
72 section.

73 (9) The commission may enter into agreements with other
74 state, federal or nongovernmental entities to execute the
75 objectives in subsection (7) of this section.

76 (10) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund
77 to be designated as the "Wild Turkey Stamp Fund," which shall
78 consist of funds made available by the Legislature in any manner
79 and funds from any other source designated for deposit into such
80 fund. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a

81 separate and special fund, separate and apart from the State
82 General Fund. Monies in the fund shall be used by the department
83 or the commission, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to
84 execute the objectives in subsections (7) and (8) of this section.
85 Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal
86 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
87 investment earnings or interest earned on amounts in the fund
88 shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

89 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new
90 section in Title 49, Chapter 7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

91 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
92 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL PERSONS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO
2 PROCURE A WILD TURKEY STAMP BEFORE HUNTING WILD TURKEYS IN THE
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO ESTABLISH THE FEE FOR NONRESIDENT HUNTERS
4 AND PROVIDE THAT THERE SHALL BE NO FEE FOR RESIDENT HUNTERS; TO
5 PROVIDE FOR THE FURNISHING OF THE STAMP; TO SET PENALTIES FOR
6 VIOLATIONS; TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH FUNDS RAISED FROM
7 THE SALE OF STAMPS MAY BE EXPENDED; TO CREATE THE WILD TURKEY
8 STAMP FUND AS A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY FOR USE BY THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS OR THE COMMISSION ON
10 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS, UPON LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION, IN
11 FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
12 PURPOSES.

SS26\HB1298PS.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate