

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1298**

**BY: Committee**

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

9           **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the  
10 following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed  
11 herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12                   (a) "Wild turkey" means the game bird *Meleagris*  
13 *gallopavo*.

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



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

23 (d) "Nongovernmental entity" means a nonprofit  
24 organization primarily concerned with the protection and  
25 conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its  
26 organizational documents.

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

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

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

40 (5) The commission shall determine the form of the stamp.  
41 The commission shall furnish physical stamps to bonded agents for  
42 issuance or sale in the same manner as other types of licenses or



43 shall cause the electronic stamp to accrue to the purchaser's  
44 benefit when purchased from an automated point-of-sale source.

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

50 (7) All revenue from the proceeds of stamps shall only be  
51 used and expended for the following objectives:

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

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

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

61 (d) Increasing access to publicly available turkey  
62 hunting opportunities.

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



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

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

72 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 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; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

