

By: Senator(s) Stogner (By Request)

To: Wildlife and
FisheriesCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2887

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO REGULATE THE KEEPING IN
2 CAPTIVITY OF WILD ANIMALS BY A PERSON; TO AUTHORIZE A PERMIT AND A
3 FEE FOR SUCH POSSESSION; TO AMEND SECTION 49-1-29, MISSISSIPPI
4 CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY POWERS OF THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE,
5 FISHERIES AND PARKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and
8 parks may regulate the possession of wild animals in captivity.
9 The commission may require a permit for such possession and may
10 establish a reasonable fee for the permit. The commission may
11 exercise all powers and establish any regulations necessary to
12 regulate the possession of wild animals in captivity.

13 SECTION 2. Section 49-1-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 49-1-29. The commission may promulgate rules and
16 regulations, inaugurate studies and surveys, and establish any
17 services it deems necessary to carry out wildlife laws. A
18 violation of any rules or regulations promulgated by the
19 commission shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punished as
20 provided in Section 49-7-101.

21 The executive director shall have authority with commission
22 approval:

23 (a) To close or shorten the open season as prescribed
24 by law * * * on any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing
25 animals, reptiles, fish or amphibians, in any locality, when it
26 finds after investigation and public review that the action is
27 reasonably necessary to secure the perpetuation of any species of
28 game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles, fish or

29 amphibians and to maintain an adequate supply in the affected
30 area. The statutes shall continue in full force and effect,
31 except as restricted and limited by the rules and regulations
32 promulgated by the commission.

33 (b) To designate wildlife refuges, with the consent of
34 the property owner or owners, in any localities it finds necessary
35 to secure perpetuation of any species of game birds, game or
36 fur-bearing animals, reptiles, fish or amphibians and to maintain
37 an adequate supply for the purpose of providing a safe retreat
38 where the animals may rest and replenish adjacent hunting,
39 trapping or fishing grounds or waters.

40 (c) To acquire and hold for the state by purchase,
41 condemnation, lease, or agreement as authorized from time to time
42 by the Legislature, and to receive by gifts or devise, lands or
43 water suitable for fish habitats, game and bird habitats, state
44 parks, access sites, wildlife refuges, or for public shooting,
45 trapping or fishing grounds or waters, to provide areas on which
46 any citizen may hunt, trap or fish under any special regulations
47 as the commission may prescribe.

48 (d) To extend and consolidate lands or waters suitable
49 for the above purposes by exchange of lands or waters under its
50 jurisdiction.

51 (e) To capture, propagate, transport, sell or exchange
52 any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles,
53 fish or amphibians needed for stocking or restocking any lands or
54 waters of the state.

55 (f) To enter into cooperative agreements with persons,
56 firms, corporations or governmental agencies for purposes
57 consistent with this chapter.

58 (g) To regulate the burning of rubbish, slashings and
59 marshes or other areas it may find reasonably necessary to reduce
60 the danger of destructive fires.

61 (h) To conduct research in improved wildlife and
62 fisheries conservation methods and to disseminate information to
63 the residents of the state through the schools, public media and
64 other publications.

65 (i) To have exclusive charge and control of the
66 propagation and distribution of wild birds, animals, reptiles,

67 fish and amphibians, the conduct and control of hatcheries,
68 biological stations and game and fur farms owned or acquired by
69 the state; to expend for the protection, propagation or
70 preservation of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, reptiles,
71 fish and amphibians all funds of the state acquired for this
72 purpose arising from licenses, gifts or otherwise; and shall have
73 charge of the enforcement of all wildlife laws.

74 (j) To grant permits and provide regulations for field
75 trials and dog trainers.

76 (k) To prohibit and to regulate the taking of nongame
77 gross fish, except minnows.

78 (l) To enter into agreements with landowners to trap
79 and purchase quail on the premises of the landowner and to provide
80 for the distribution of quail.

81 (m) To operate or lease to third persons concessions or
82 other rights or privileges on lakes owned or leased by the
83 department. Owners of land adjoining land owned or leased by the
84 department shall have priority to the concessions or rights or
85 privileges, if the owners meet the qualifications established by
86 the commission.

87 (n) To implement a beaver control program and to charge
88 fees, upon the recommendation of the Beaver Control Advisory
89 Board, to landowners participating in the beaver control program
90 described in Section 49-7-201.

91 (o) To apply for, receive and expend any federal, state
92 or local funds, contributions or funds from any other source for
93 the purpose of beaver control or eradication.

94 (p) To require the department to divide the districts
95 into zones if necessary, and periodically survey the districts or
96 zones to obtain information that is necessary to properly
97 determine the population and allowable harvest limits of wildlife
98 within the district or zone.

99 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
100 and after its passage.