

By: Eaton

To: Game and Fish; Rules

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1316

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE  
2 BAITING OF WHITE-TAILED DEER, THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF SALES  
3 OF DEER HUNTING LICENSES, THE EXTENSION OF DEER SEASON AND BAG  
4 LIMITS, AND TO REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO ASSESS CONSTRUCTION AND  
5 UPDATES CONCERNING FISH HATCHERIES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
6 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO COORDINATE THE STUDY; TO PROVIDE  
7 THAT A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND  
8 RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE FILED WITH THE LEGISLATURE BY DECEMBER  
9 31, 2000; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) There is created a white-tailed deer and  
12 fish hatcheries study committee. The committee shall consist of  
13 the following members: (a) the Chairman of the Senate Wildlife,  
14 Fisheries and Parks Committee; (b) the Chairman of the House Game  
15 and Fish Committee; (c) two (2) members of the Commission on  
16 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks appointed by the chairman of the  
17 commission; (d) a wildlife biologist to be recommended by the  
18 Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
19 Fisheries and Parks and appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; (e)  
20 a wildlife biologist to be recommended by the Executive Director  
21 of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and  
22 appointed by the Speaker of the House; (f) three (3) members of  
23 the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee appointed by  
24 the Lieutenant Governor; and (g) three (3) members of the House  
25 Game and Fish Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House.

26 The Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks  
27 Committee and the Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee  
28 shall serve as cochair of the study committee.

29 For attending meetings of the committee, each legislative

30 member shall be paid per diem in the amount authorized by Section  
31 25-3-69 and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the  
32 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47 from the contingent expense  
33 fund of his respective house. However, no per diem, mileage  
34 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending  
35 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and  
36 no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid  
37 without prior approval of the proper committee in the member's  
38 respective house.

39 (2) In conducting its activities, the committee may elicit  
40 the support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,  
41 governmental, environmental, minority and public interest  
42 organizations and associations, or individual members thereof, and  
43 any federal, state and local agencies and political subdivisions  
44 as may be necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the  
45 study.

46 (3) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or the  
47 department's designee shall coordinate the study of the advantages  
48 and disadvantages of baiting white-tailed deer; the decline in the  
49 number of sales of deer hunting licenses and a plan of action  
50 which may be implemented by the Legislature to combat the decline;  
51 and the extension of deer season and bag limits, including doe  
52 season. The study shall further assess construction and updates  
53 concerning fish hatcheries.

54 (4) The committee shall prepare a report of the study with  
55 recommendations and file the report with the Legislature by  
56 December 31, 2000. Upon presentation of its report to the  
57 Legislature, the committee shall be dissolved.

58 (5) Nothing in this act shall restrict the discussion and  
59 consideration by the committee of any other wildlife laws, rules,  
60 and regulations in addition to the matters described in subsection  
61 (3) of this section.

62 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

63 and after its passage.