

By: Representatives Zuber, Creel, Janus

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 702

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT SALTWATER SPORTS FISHING LICENSES SHALL BE VALID FOR  
3 A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-21. (1) (a) The licenses for hunting, trapping or  
9 fishing shall be issued on a form prepared by the executive  
10 director and supplied to the bonded agents authorized to issue  
11 licenses. The forms shall bear the name and social security  
12 number or driver's license number of the applicant. All licenses,  
13 except the saltwater sports fishing license, shall be valid from  
14 the date of its issuance to June 30 following its date. Saltwater  
15 sports fishing licenses shall be valid for a period of twelve (12)  
16 months from the date of issuance. Each license shall be  
17 countersigned by the licensee in the presence of the agent  
18 authorized to issue the same. The licenses shall be issued in the  
19 name of the commission and be countersigned by the bonded agent  
20 issuing same. The application for a license under this chapter  
21 shall be subscribed and sworn to by the applicant before an  
22 officer authorized to administer oaths in this state, and for this  
23 purpose the members of the commission, the executive director,  
24 sheriffs, conservation officers and bonded agents are hereby  
25 authorized to administer oaths, but no charge shall be made by any  
26 officer employed by the commission or sheriff for the  
27 administration of the oath.



28           (b) A person may purchase a license from the office of  
29 the department without appearing in person.

30           (c) The commission may design, establish, and  
31 administer a program to provide for the purchase, by electronic  
32 means, of any license, permit, registration or reservation issued  
33 by the commission or department.

34           (2) Any person authorized to issue licenses for hunting,  
35 trapping or fishing in this state who attempts to issue a license  
36 on a form other than one as prescribed by this section, or  
37 attempts to prepare a license certificate in any manner other than  
38 on the form prescribed by this section, and furnished by the  
39 executive director, is guilty of a Class II violation, and shall  
40 be punished as provided in Section 49-7-143, Mississippi Code of  
41 1972, and the person convicted shall be forever barred from  
42 issuing licenses in the State of Mississippi.

43           (3) Any resident or nonresident who hunts, takes or traps  
44 any wild animal, bird or fish must possess a valid license issued  
45 by the commission, unless specifically exempted under this  
46 chapter.

47           (4) Any nonresident, who hunts or traps without the required  
48 license is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof  
49 shall be fined in an amount not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
50 (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the  
51 first offense. The nonresident shall also be assessed by the  
52 court an administrative fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of  
53 this section. For the second or any subsequent offense a  
54 nonresident shall be fined in an amount of not less than One  
55 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than One Thousand Five  
56 Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for  
57 not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and  
58 imprisonment. The nonresident shall also be assessed by the court  
59 an administrative fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this  
60 section.



61           (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license  
62 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in  
63 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
64 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.  
65 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be  
66 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
67 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that  
68 nonresident shall also be assessed by the court an administrative  
69 fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this section.

70           (6) In addition to any other fines or penalties imposed  
71 under subsection (4) or (5) of this section, any person convicted  
72 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section shall be  
73 assessed by the court an administrative fee equal in amount to the  
74 cost of the hunting, trapping or fishing license fee that such  
75 person unlawfully failed to possess at the time of the violation,  
76 the amount of which license fee shall be entered upon the ticket  
77 or citation by the charging officer at the time the ticket or  
78 citation is issued. The clerk of the court in which conviction  
79 for a violation of subsection (3) of this section takes place,  
80 promptly shall collect all administrative fees imposed under this  
81 subsection and deposit them monthly with the State Treasurer, in  
82 the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure, as  
83 nearly as practicable, as required for the collection, receipt and  
84 deposit of state assessments under Section 99-19-73. However, all  
85 administrative fees collected under the provisions of this  
86 subsection shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the account  
87 of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and may be  
88 expended by the department upon appropriation by the Legislature.

89           (7) Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name  
90 or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is  
91 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand  
92 Dollars (\$2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed  
93 one (1) year or both.



94           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
95 and after July 1, 2002.

