

By: Representative Pierce

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 1107

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO ADOPT  
 3 RULES OR REGULATIONS TO ALLOW THE HUNTING OF DEER OVER CORN, GRAIN  
 4 OR OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED; TO REQUIRE DEER HUNTERS WHO FEED DEER  
 5 WITH BAIT TO PURCHASE A PERMIT AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE  
 6 LOCATION OF THE FEEDER OR FEED; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-33,  
 7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED  
 8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 11 amended as follows:

12 49-7-31. (1) The open season for game birds and game  
 13 animals shall be as follows:

14 (a) On bobwhite quail: The season shall open on  
 15 Thanksgiving day and run through the first Saturday in March next  
 16 following.

17 (b) On pheasant: There shall be no open season on  
 18 pheasant.

19 (c) On wild turkey: The commission shall fix the  
 20 spring season between the Saturday nearest March 20 and May 1 in  
 21 designated areas. In addition, the commission may fix special  
 22 fall either-sex seasons.

23 (d) On squirrel:

24 (i) Zone 1: For areas north of Highway 82 plus  
 25 those portions of Sunflower County and Washington County south of  
 26 Highway 82 the season shall open on the Saturday nearest October 1  
 27 and run through February 28.

28 (ii) Zone 2: For areas between Highway 82 and  
 29 Highway 84, plus such portions of the state south of Highway 84



30 and west of Interstate 55, the season shall open on the Saturday  
31 nearest October 15 and run through February 28.

32 (iii) Zone 3: For areas south of Highway 84 and  
33 east of Interstate 55 the season shall open on the last Saturday  
34 in October and run through February 28.

35 (e) On deer:

36 (i) With bow and arrow: October 1 through the  
37 Friday prior to Thanksgiving.

38 (ii) With guns and with dog: From the Saturday  
39 prior to Thanksgiving through December 1.

40 (iii) With primitive weapons and without dogs:  
41 December 2 through December 15.

42 (iv) With guns and without dogs: December 16  
43 through December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting  
44 statewide or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may  
45 designate without dogs after the end of the last season for  
46 hunting deer with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal  
47 designated weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond  
48 January 31.

49 (v) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through  
50 a date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of  
51 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when  
52 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns  
53 and with dogs in paragraph (e)(ii).

54 (vi) When hunting deer during any gun season on  
55 deer, a hunter must wear in full view five hundred (500) square  
56 inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

57 (vii) In order to set and regulate the deer  
58 seasons, the commission may:

59 1. Set and regulate the deer seasons on  
60 wildlife management areas which it administers;

61 2. Allow the harvesting of antlerless deer in  
62 the districts or zones upon the recommendation of the executive



63 director based upon good and substantial quantitative data and  
64 research evaluations that demonstrate that the harvesting is  
65 necessary to properly manage the herd. The commission, only upon  
66 the recommendation of the executive director, may allow the  
67 harvesting of antlerless deer during the deer season with guns and  
68 with dogs by a majority vote of the commission. Nothing in this  
69 section prohibits the harvesting of either sex deer by landowners  
70 or leaseholders on private lands under a deer management program  
71 prescribed or approved by the executive director.

72 3. Provide a special permit for the  
73 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.  
74 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the  
75 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may  
76 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who  
77 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem  
78 wildlife.

79 (viii) The commission, by rule or regulation,  
80 shall authorize the hunting of deer over corn, grain or other  
81 supplemental feed during all deer hunting seasons subject to the  
82 following conditions:

83 1. The hunter must purchase a Twenty-five  
84 Dollar (\$25.00) permit from an area officer or local conservation  
85 officer.

86 2. The hunter must provide information on the  
87 specific location of the feeder or the place where corn, grain or  
88 feed is located.

89 3. The feeder may be located only on  
90 privately owned property.

91 (ix) The commission shall establish a special  
92 hunting season for youth under the age of sixteen (16) and for  
93 handicapped persons in the Natchez State Park. The commission  
94 shall also establish a primitive weapon season in the Natchez  
95 State Park. The selection of participants in the primitive weapon



96 season shall be by public drawing from all qualified applications.  
97 The commission shall set the number of permits to be issued and  
98 the length of the special seasons. The commission may also  
99 establish a special hunting season for youth and handicapped  
100 persons or a primitive weapon season as provided in this  
101 subparagraph in any other state park under the jurisdiction of the  
102 department but shall only do so upon the recommendation of the  
103 staff of the department as approved by the commission. The  
104 commission shall select participants and set the number of permits  
105 to be issued and the length of the special seasons in the manner  
106 provided in this subparagraph.

107           (x) The commission may establish and regulate  
108 special youth hunts for all nonmigratory game birds and animals  
109 outside of the open season on wildlife management areas \* \* \* and  
110 on private lands.

111           (f) On fur-bearing animals: The commission may fix the  
112 open season on fur-bearing animals between November 1 and March 1  
113 next following and fix the open season for hunting opossums,  
114 raccoons and bobcats with dogs and guns by licensed hunters from  
115 October 1 to February 28 next following; but raccoons and bobcats  
116 may be run, hunted, chased or pursued throughout the year with  
117 dogs by licensed hunters. The commission may establish an  
118 additional open season on raccoon from July 1 through October 1,  
119 and the bag limit on raccoon during the additional open season  
120 shall be one (1) per party, per night.

121           (g) On rabbits: The season shall open on the Saturday  
122 nearest October 15 and run through February 28 next following, and  
123 when rabbits are depredating or destroying crops, the owner of the  
124 crops or his tenants may shoot the rabbits with guns.

125           (h) On predatory animals: The hunting of predatory  
126 animals shall be restricted to the open seasons for hunting any  
127 game animal or game bird, using only the firearms, ammunition,  
128 primitive weapons or archery equipment legal for use during that



129 open season. Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their  
130 designated agents may take predatory animals year-round on lands  
131 owned or leased by them. The taking of any animal or animals  
132 other than beavers or coyote by the use of a trap or traps is  
133 unlawful except during the time the season is open for the taking  
134 of fur-bearing animals. Fox and coyote may be run, chased or  
135 pursued with dogs except as provided in Section 49-7-32 year-round  
136 by licensed hunters.

137 (i) On migratory birds: The open season for migratory  
138 birds shall be the season prescribed by the Federal Migratory Bird  
139 Treaty regulations.

140 (j) On nongame gross fish: The season for taking  
141 nongame gross fish by hand or with grappling tongs shall be from  
142 May 1 to July 15.

143 (k) It is unlawful to trap fox after the closed season  
144 for trapping of other fur-bearing animals, except on property  
145 owned or leased by the person trapping.

146 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the open season  
147 for game birds and game animals shall be stabilized unless some  
148 unforeseen calamity affecting the resource necessitates earlier  
149 change.

150 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
151 amended as follows:

152 49-7-33. Except as otherwise provided in Section 49-7-31(1)  
153 it is unlawful to hunt, trap or kill any wild bird or wild animal  
154 of any kind with the aid of bait, recordings of bird or animal  
155 calls, or electrically amplified imitations of calls of any kind,  
156 except a person may use electrically amplified sound devices for  
157 hunting coyote and crow. The commission, in its discretion, may  
158 relax the restrictions regarding the use of lures or sound devices  
159 if a condition arises or exists, as decided by the State Board of  
160 Health or county board of health, that may endanger persons or  
161 livestock in a certain community, county or area.



162           A person may use liquid scents for any animal or bird.

163           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
164 and after July 1, 2002.

