

By: Representative Ryals

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 1155

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-5-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW HORSE TRAFFIC IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS EXCEPT DURING
3 LARGE GAME HUNTING SEASONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-5-13. (1) (a) The commission may adopt rules and
8 regulations regulating public hunting and fishing in any wildlife
9 conservation management projects or wildlife conservation hunting
10 and fishing refuges constructed under this chapter, and may
11 prescribe and collect fees for the privilege of hunting and
12 fishing in such projects and shall have general authority to
13 operate such wildlife conservation management areas or refuges.

14 (b) The commission shall allow equestrian traffic in
15 all areas where persons are allowed to walk in any wildlife
16 management project or refuge except during large game hunting
17 seasons.

18 (2) The commission may adopt such rules and regulations that
19 may be necessary for the management and control of such wildlife
20 conservation management areas or refuges.

21 (3) The Department of Finance and Administration may lease
22 any lands other than woodlands owned by the state within wildlife
23 conservation management areas as long as such lands are not within
24 the boundaries of the used portions of such areas and so long as
25 such lands are leased as provided for in subsections (4) and (5)
26 of this section. The rental from any such lease is to be paid to
27 the commission and expended as hereinafter provided.



28 (4) The commission shall recommend to the Department of
29 Finance and Administration the number of acres of land within
30 wildlife conservation management areas which should be leased to
31 private entities. The Department of Finance and Administration
32 shall have the authority to lease for agricultural purposes that
33 land so recommended for not less than one (1) nor more than five
34 (5) years. The Department of Finance and Administration shall
35 lease the lands for cash rent only. The Department of Finance and
36 Administration shall reserve and exclude from any such lands the
37 hunting rights on the lands at all times after the crops are
38 harvested and until the lands are again planted.

39 (5) It shall be the duty of the Department of Finance and
40 Administration to lease such lands at public contract upon the
41 submission of two (2) or more sealed bids to the Department of
42 Finance and Administration after having advertised such land for
43 rent in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county
44 in which the land is located, or if no newspaper be published in
45 said county, then in a newspaper having a general circulation
46 therein, for a period of not less than two (2) successive weeks.
47 The first publication shall be made not less than ten (10) days
48 prior to the date of such public contract, and the last
49 publication shall be made not more than seven (7) days prior to
50 such date. The Department of Finance and Administration shall
51 have the authority to reject any and all bids. If all bids on a
52 tract or parcel of land are rejected, the Department of Finance
53 and Administration may then advertise for new bids on that tract
54 or parcel of land. Successful bidders shall take possession of
55 their leaseholds at such time authorized by the Department of
56 Finance and Administration. Provided, however, rent shall be due
57 no later than the day upon which the lessee shall assume
58 possession of the leasehold, and shall be due on the anniversary
59 date for each following year of the lease. The Department of
60 Finance and Administration shall have the rights and remedies for



61 the security and collection of such rents given by law to
62 landlords. Upon the execution of the leases as authorized by this
63 section, the leased land shall be liable to be taxed as other
64 lands are taxed during the continuance of the lease, but in case
65 of sale thereon for taxes, only the title of the leaseholder or
66 his heirs or assigns shall pass by the sale.

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

