

By: Representatives McBride, Frierson

To: Game and Fish

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 643

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ALLOW ANTLERED DEER WITH LESS THAN FOUR POINTS TO BE TAKEN IF  
3 NECESSARY TO MANAGE DEER ON DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
4 LANDS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS; TO REQUIRE A PERMIT TO TAKE  
5 SUCH DEER; TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE  
6 THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO CONDUCT STUDIES  
7 OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE REQUIRING PERSONS  
8 WHO HARVEST ANY DEER TO IDENTIFY EACH DEER AND THE EFFECTS OF  
9 EXTENDING THE DEER SEASON TO JANUARY 31; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game  
14 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by  
15 the Legislature by statute. \* \* \*

16 (2) (a) The bag limit on antlered \* \* \* deer is one  
17 (1) \* \* \* per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year. An  
18 antlered \* \* \* deer must have antlers of four (4) points or  
19 greater to be taken except as provided in paragraph (b) of this  
20 subsection.

21 (b) An antlered deer with less than four (4) points may  
22 be taken by permit if it is necessary to manage deer on lands  
23 under the deer management assistance program or wildlife  
24 management areas. A written management justification issued by  
25 the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks must accompany any  
26 request for such a permit. Any antlered deer with less than four  
27 (4) points harvested under this permit must be identified with a  
28 tag immediately upon possession. Antlered deer taken by permit  
29 shall be subject to the daily bag limit but shall not be subject  
30 to the annual bag limit on antlered deer. The department shall



31 include a report on permits issued, to whom issued and deer  
32 harvested in the department's annual deer program report.

33       (3) (a) The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1)  
34 per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year; except that two  
35 (2) additional antlerless deer per license year may be taken with  
36 a bow and arrow. Antlerless deer may be taken only in the areas  
37 prescribed by order of the commission. It is illegal to take a  
38 spotted fawn in any season.

39       (b) It is unlawful for a nonresident to kill an  
40 antlerless deer except: (i) a nonresident may take antlerless  
41 deer on lands that the title is vested in the nonresident or on  
42 lands that the nonresident has leased the hunting and fishing  
43 rights; or (ii) a nonresident who has a native son or daughter  
44 nonresident lifetime sportsman license or a resident lifetime  
45 sportsman license may take antlerless deer on private lands,  
46 wildlife management areas or national wildlife refuges.

47       (4) The bag limit on antlerless deer set by this section  
48 shall not apply to private lands under the deer management  
49 assistance program or the fee-based antlerless program as approved  
50 by the department.

51       (5) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2005.

52       **SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and  
53 Parks shall conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a  
54 procedure which requires any person who takes or harvests any deer  
55 to physically mark or identify each deer taken by means of a tag  
56 or similar method. The department shall complete its study and  
57 file a report of its findings and recommendations with the  
58 Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and the Chairman of  
59 the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee not later than  
60 January 15, 2004.

61       (2) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall  
62 conduct a study on the effects of extending the deer hunting  
63 season to January 31. The report shall not be limited to reducing



64 the number of days at the beginning of the season for the purpose  
65 of adding days at the end of January, nor shall the report  
66 prohibit the establishment of zones for deer season opening and  
67 closing dates. The department shall complete its study and file a  
68 report of its findings and recommendations with the Secretary of  
69 the Senate and the Clerk of the House no later than January 1,  
70 2004.

71       **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
72 and after July 1, 2003.

