

By: Representatives McBride, Frierson

To: Game and Fish

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; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game
11 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by
12 the Legislature by statute. This subsection shall stand repealed
13 on July 1, 2004.

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

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



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

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

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

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

49 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after July 1, 2003.

