

By: Senator(s) Chamberlin

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2124

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES SHALL EXPIRE ONE YEAR  
3 FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
4 NOTIFY A LICENSEE OF THE EXPIRATION OF LICENSES BY MAIL; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

24 (b) A person shall purchase a license from the office  
25 of the department without appearing in person.

26 (c) The commission may design, establish, and  
27 administer a program to provide for the purchase, by electronic



28 means, of any license, permit, registration or reservation issued  
29 by the commission or department.

30 (d) The department shall notify by mail, the licensee of the  
31 expiration of his licenses.

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

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

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

59 (5) Any nonresident who fishes without the required license  
60 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in



61 an amount not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
62 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense.  
63 For the second or any subsequent offense a nonresident shall be  
64 fined in an amount not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
65 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and that  
66 nonresident shall also be assessed by the court an administrative  
67 fee as prescribed under subsection (6) of this section.

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

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

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

