

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2894

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE MINIMUM ANTLER SIZE FOR LEGAL BUCKS; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

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

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

10 (2) (a) The bag limit on antlered deer is one (1) per day,
11 not to exceed three (3) per license year. An antlered deer must
12 have antlers of six (6) points or greater to be taken except as
13 provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

14 (b) An antlered deer with less than six (6) points may
15 be taken by permit if it is necessary to manage deer on lands
16 under the deer management assistance program or wildlife
17 management areas. A written management justification issued by
18 the department * * * must accompany any request for such a permit.
19 Any antlered deer with less than six (6) points harvested under
20 this permit must be identified with a tag immediately upon
21 possession. Antlered deer taken by permit shall be subject to the
22 daily bag limit but shall not be subject to the annual bag limit
23 on antlered deer. The department shall include a report on
24 permits issued, to whom issued and deer harvested in the
25 department's annual deer program report.

26 (3) (a) The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1)
27 per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year; except that two

28 (2) additional antlerless deer per license year may be taken with
29 a bow and arrow. Antlerless deer may be taken only in the areas
30 prescribed by order of the commission. It is illegal to take a
31 spotted fawn in any season.

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

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

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

45 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
46 and after July 1, 2004.