

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1420

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXEMPT HUNTERS FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER FROM THE
3 REQUIREMENT THAT AN ANTLERED DEER MUST HAVE AT LEAST FOUR POINTS
4 TO BE TAKEN; TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT
5 BUCK CRITERIA FOR ANTLERED DEER TAKEN BY PERMIT ON LANDS UNDER THE
6 DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS;
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 49-7-41. (1) The commission may set the bag limits for game
12 animals, birds and fish, unless the bag limits are established by
13 the Legislature by statute.

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

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

30 issued and deer harvested in the department's annual deer program
31 report.

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

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

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

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51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2005.