

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 887

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. hb

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 SECTION 1. (1) When hunting deer during any gun season on
11 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)
12 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange. This
13 requirement shall not apply to a hunter while the hunter is in a
14 fully enclosed deer stand.

15 (2) A violation of this section is a Class II violation and
16 is punishable as provided in Section 49-7-143.

17 SECTION 2. The open season for game birds shall be as
18 follows:

19 (a) On bobwhite quail: The season shall open on
20 Thanksgiving Day and run through the first Saturday in March next
21 following.

22 (b) On pheasant: There shall be no open season on
23 pheasant.

24 (c) On wild turkey: The commission may fix the spring
25 season between March 1 and May 15. In addition, the commission
26 may fix special fall either-sex seasons.

27 (d) On migratory birds: The open season for migratory
28 birds shall be the season prescribed by the Federal Migratory Bird
29 Treaty regulations.

30 SECTION 3. The open season on game animals except deer shall
31 be as follows:

32 (a) On squirrel:

33 (i) Zone 1: For areas north of Highway 82 plus
34 those portions of Sunflower County and Washington County south of

35 Highway 82 the season shall open on the Saturday nearest October 1
36 and run through February 28.

37 (ii) Zone 2: For areas between Highway 82 and
38 Highway 84, plus such portions of the state south of Highway 84
39 and west of Interstate 55, the season shall open on the Saturday
40 nearest October 15 and run through February 28.

41 (iii) Zone 3: For areas south of Highway 84 and
42 east of Interstate 55 the season shall open on the last Saturday
43 in October and run through February 28.

44 (b) On rabbits: The season shall open on the Saturday
45 nearest October 15 and run through February 28 next following, and
46 when rabbits are depredating or destroying crops, the owner of the
47 crops or his tenants may shoot the rabbits with guns.

48 **SECTION 4.** Section 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
49 amended as follows:

50 49-7-31. (1) The open season * * * on deer shall be as
51 follows:

52 * * *

53 (a) With bow and arrow: October 1 through the Friday
54 prior to Thanksgiving.

55 (b) With guns and with dogs: From the Saturday prior
56 to Thanksgiving through December 1.

57 (c) With primitive weapons and without dogs: December
58 2 through December 15.

59 (d) With guns and without dogs: December 16 through
60 December 23. However, the commission may allow hunting statewide
61 or in specific areas with any legal weapon which it may designate
62 without dogs after the end of the last season for hunting deer
63 with guns and with dogs, but the season with legal designated
64 weapons and without dogs shall not extend beyond January 31.

65 (e) The commission may establish an extended season
66 with primitive weapons and bow and arrow without dogs from
67 February 1 through February 15 for the area south of U.S. Highway
68 84 and east of Mississippi Highway 35 only for legal bucks. If
69 the commission establishes the extended season, then any antlered

70 deer taken in this area during any open season under this
71 subsection must be a legal buck as defined in this paragraph. For
72 purposes of this paragraph, the term "legal buck" means a deer
73 with antlers of four (4) points or more with a minimum inside
74 spread of ten (10) inches or a minimum main beam length of
75 thirteen (13) inches. The commission may delay the opening date
76 and change the length of bow and arrow season in paragraph (1)(a)
77 in this area.

78 (f) With guns and with dogs: December 24 through a
79 date fixed by the commission that will provide a total of
80 thirty-nine (39) days of hunting deer with guns and with dogs when
81 added to the number of days provided for hunting deer with guns
82 and with dogs in paragraph (b).

83 * * *

84 (2) * * * The commission may * * * set and regulate the deer
85 seasons on wildlife management areas which it administers.

86 (3) (a) The commission may allow the harvesting of
87 antlerless deer in the districts or zones upon the recommendation
88 of the executive director based upon good and substantial
89 quantitative data and research evaluations that demonstrate that
90 the harvesting is necessary to properly manage the herd.

91 (b) The commission, only upon the recommendation of the
92 executive director, may allow the harvesting of antlerless deer
93 during the deer season with guns and with dogs by a majority vote
94 of the commission.

95 (c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the harvesting
96 of either-sex deer by landowners or leaseholders on private lands
97 under a deer management program prescribed or approved by the
98 executive director.

99 (4) The commission may provide a special permit for the
100 harvesting of deer when they are depredating and destroying crops.
101 The department shall supervise the harvesting and provide for the
102 salvaging of the meat of the animals. The commission may
103 authorize the department to assist any farmer in this state, who

104 sustains crop damage by wildlife, in eradication of the problem
105 wildlife.

106 * * *

107 **SECTION 5.** (1) The commission shall establish a special
108 hunting season for youth under the age of sixteen (16) and for
109 handicapped persons in the Natchez State Park. The commission
110 shall also establish a primitive weapon season in the Natchez
111 State Park. The selection of participants in the primitive weapon
112 season shall be by public drawing from all qualified applications.
113 The commission shall set the number of permits to be issued and
114 the length of the special seasons.

115 (2) The commission may also establish a special hunting
116 season for youth and handicapped persons or a primitive weapon
117 season as provided in this section in any other state park under
118 the jurisdiction of the department but shall only do so upon the
119 recommendation of the staff of the department as approved by the
120 commission. The commission shall select participants and set the
121 number of permits to be issued and the length of the special
122 seasons.

123 (3) The commission may establish and regulate special youth
124 hunts for all nonmigratory game birds and animals outside of the
125 open season on wildlife management areas and on private lands.

126 **SECTION 6.** (1) The commission may fix the open season on
127 fur-bearing animals between November 1 and March 1 next following
128 and fix the open season for hunting opossums, raccoons and bobcats
129 with dogs and guns by licensed hunters from October 1 to February
130 28 next following; but raccoons and bobcats may be run, hunted,
131 chased or pursued throughout the year with dogs by licensed
132 hunters.

133 (2) The commission may establish an additional open season
134 on raccoon from July 1 through October 1, and the bag limit on
135 raccoon during the additional open season shall be one (1) per
136 party, per night.

137 **SECTION 7.** (1) (a) The hunting of predatory animals shall
138 be restricted to the open seasons for hunting any game animal or

139 game bird, using only the firearms, ammunition, primitive weapons
140 or archery equipment legal for use during that open season.

141 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
142 designated agents may take predatory animals year-round on lands
143 owned or leased by them.

144 (2) The taking of any animal or animals other than beavers,
145 nutria or coyote by the use of a trap or traps is unlawful except
146 during the time the season is open for the taking of fur-bearing
147 animals.

148 (3) Fox and coyote may be run, chased or pursued with dogs
149 except as provided in Section 49-7-32 year-round by licensed
150 hunters.

151 (4) It is unlawful to trap fox after the closed season for
152 trapping of other fur-bearing animals, except on property owned or
153 leased by the person trapping.

154 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
155 and after July 1, 2005.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WEARING HUNTER ORANGE;
2 TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR NOT WEARING HUNTER ORANGE; TO RECODIFY
3 OPEN SEASON LAWS ON GAME ANIMALS AND BIRDS, FUR-BEARING ANIMALS
4 AND PREDATORS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
5 TO CONFORM; TO FURTHER AMEND 49-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
6 PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENDED DEER SEASON ON BUCKS WITH CERTAIN MINIMUM
7 ANTLER SIZES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

SS26\HB887PS.J

John O. Gilbert
Secretary of the Senate