

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
ParksCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 698

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-20.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWELVE AND SIXTEEN WHO
3 HAVE NOT SATISFACTORILY PASSED THE HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE TO BE
4 ACCOMPANIED WHILE HUNTING BY MISSISSIPPI LICENSED OR EXEMPT HUNTER
5 AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE; TO CREATE A RESIDENT APPRENTICE
6 LICENSE ALLOWING PERSONS AGE SIXTEEN OR OLDER TO HUNT OR TRAP IN
7 THE STATE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY MISSISSIPPI LICENSED OR EXEMPT
8 HUNTER AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-20.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 49-7-20.1. (1) To reduce hunting accidents of children
13 under license age, to protect the safety of these children and to
14 promote hunter safety, a child at least twelve (12) years of age
15 and under sixteen (16) years of age must have a certificate of
16 satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by
17 the department before hunting alone in this state.

18 (2) A child under the age of twelve (12) must be in the
19 presence and under the direct supervision of a Mississippi
20 licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age
21 when the child is hunting. A child at least twelve (12) years of
22 age and under sixteen (16) years of age, who has not
23 satisfactorily completed the hunter education course as approved
24 by the department, must be in the presence and under the direct
25 supervision of a Mississippi licensed or exempt hunter at least
26 twenty-one (21) years of age when the child is hunting.

27 (3) There is no penalty for a violation of this section, but
28 to protect the safety of the child a conservation officer may
29 require the child to end the hunt and may unload the firearm and
30 may take the firearm and the child to an adult.

31 (4) There is created a resident "apprentice" license to be
32 issued by the department to anyone at least sixteen (16) years of
33 age or older that allows the holder, without having hunter safety
34 education, to hunt or trap with a Mississippi licensed or exempt
35 hunter twenty-one (21) years of age or older. Licensees under
36 this subsection are limited to a one-time purchase, and any fee
37 charged for the license shall not exceed the cost of a resident
38 license. Upon the expiration of the one-time resident
39 "apprentice" license, such licensees shall not hunt without having
40 satisfactorily completed hunter safety education.

41 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
42 and after July 1, 2006.