

By: Representative Rotenberry

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 651

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-20.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REDUCE FROM 12 YEARS TO TEN YEARS THE MINIMUM AGE OF CHILDREN
3 WHO ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE AND WHO
4 MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT WHEN ENGAGED IN HUNTING ACTIVITIES;
5 TO PRESCRIBE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

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

10 49-7-20.1. (1) (a) To reduce hunting accidents of children
11 under license age, to protect the safety of these children and to
12 promote hunter safety, a child at least ten (10) years of age and
13 under sixteen (16) years of age must have a certificate of
14 satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by
15 the department before hunting in this state.

16 (b) A child at least ten (10) years of age and under
17 sixteen (16) years of age may hunt without having the certificate
18 of hunter education required under this subsection if the child is
19 in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or
20 exempt resident hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when
21 hunting.

22 (2) A child under the age of ten (10) must be in the
23 presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt
24 resident hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the
25 child is hunting.

26 (3) A violation of subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this
27 section shall be punished as follows:

28 (a) For conviction of a first offense:

29 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child may
30 be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

31 (ii) The child shall be required to attend and
32 satisfactorily complete a hunter education course approved by the
33 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and

34 (iii) The child shall be warned of the penalty for
35 a second violation.

36 (b) For conviction of a second offense, the offenses
37 being committed within three (3) years:

38 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
39 shall be fined not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
40 (\$1,500.00);

41 (ii) The child shall be required to attend and
42 satisfactorily complete a hunter education course approved by the
43 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and/or required to
44 satisfactorily complete thirty (30) hours of community service;
45 and

46 (iii) The child shall be warned of the penalty for
47 a third violation.

48 (c) For conviction of a third offense, the offenses
49 being committed within three (3) years:

50 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
51 shall be fined Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00);

52 (ii) The child shall be required to satisfactorily
53 complete sixty (60) hours of community service; and

54 (iii) All firearms, equipment and vehicles not
55 authorized for operation on public roadways, that were used in the
56 hunt shall be seized and forfeited.

57 (d) For conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense,
58 the offenses being committed within three (3) years:

59 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
60 shall be fined Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00); and

61 (ii) All firearms, equipment and vehicles not
62 authorized for operation on public roadways, that were used in the
63 hunt shall be seized and forfeited.

64 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
65 and after July 1, 2007.