

By: Representative Kinkade

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 1206
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE DATES ON OPEN SEASON FOR FUR-BEARING ANIMALS AND HUNTING
3 OPOSSUMS, RACOONS AND BOBCATS WITH DOGS AND GUNS; TO AMEND SECTION
4 49-7-31.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED BY HOUSE BILL NO.
5 526, 2024 REGULAR SESSION, TO CLARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER
6 WHICH HUNTERS MUST WEAR SOLID UNBROKEN FLUORESCENT ORANGE OR SOLID
7 UNBROKEN FLUORESCENT PINK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31.4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 49-7-31.4. (1) The commission may fix the open season on
12 fur-bearing animals between November 1 and March * * * 15 next
13 following and fix the open season for hunting opossums, raccoons
14 and bobcats with dogs and guns by licensed hunters from October 1
15 to * * * March 15 next following; but raccoons and bobcats may be
16 run, hunted, chased or pursued throughout the year with dogs by
17 licensed hunters.

18 (2) The commission may establish an additional open season
19 on raccoon from July 1 through October 1, and the bag limit on



20 raccoon during the additional open season shall be one (1) per
21 party, per night.

22 (3) When the open season on fur-bearing animals, including
23 any additional open season on raccoon, ends on a Friday, the
24 commission shall have the authority to extend the season until
25 thirty (30) minutes after sunset on the following Sunday.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-7-31.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
27 amended by House Bill No. 526, 2024 Regular Session, is amended as
28 follows:

29 49-7-31.1. (1) When hunting deer during any * * * firearm
30 season on deer, * * * every hunter, whether hunting with a
31 firearm, bow and arrow or any other weapon, must wear in full view
32 at least five hundred (500) square inches of solid unbroken
33 fluorescent orange or solid unbroken fluorescent pink, except as
34 otherwise provided in this section. * * *

35 (2) Hunters shall not be required to wear the five hundred
36 (500) square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange or solid
37 unbroken fluorescent pink required under subsection (1) of this
38 section when:

39 (a) Hunting from a deer stand that is elevated twelve
40 (12) feet or more above the ground; or

41 (b) Hunting in a fully enclosed blind.

42 (* * *3) A violation of this section is a Class III
43 violation and is punishable as provided in Section 49-7-101.



44 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after its passage.

