

By: Representative Calvert

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1208  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE LAW PROHIBITING HUNTING ON LANDS OF OTHERS; TO PROVIDE  
3 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 97-17-85,  
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
5 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 49-7-79. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to  
10 knowingly enter the lands of another without the permission of, or  
11 without being accompanied by, the landowner or the lessee of the  
12 land, or the agent of such landowner or lessee, to hunt, fish,  
13 shoot, or trap \* \* \* on the lands or leases of another \* \* \*.

14 (2) Any person convicted of violating subsection (1) of this  
15 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction,  
16 shall be punished for the first offense by a fine of not less than  
17 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), nor more than One Thousand Dollars  
18 (\$1,000.00). Upon conviction of any person for a second or  
19 subsequent offense, with the offenses being committed within five



20 (5) years of the last offense, such person shall be punished by a  
21 fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), nor more  
22 than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00).

23 (3) Any person convicted of a second or subsequent offense  
24 under subsection (1) of this section, the offenses being committed  
25 within a five-year period, shall also forfeit all hunting,  
26 trapping, and fishing privileges for a period of one-year. Such  
27 person shall pay a reinstatement fee of Five Hundred Dollars  
28 (\$500.00) to have his or her privileges restored.

29 (4) Any animal, bird, fish, or parts thereof, that have been  
30 unlawfully taken or possessed in violation of subsection (1) of  
31 this section shall be seized by a law enforcement officer and  
32 disposed of by the department, or under its direction.

33 (5) In addition to any fine or penalty assessed due to a  
34 violation of this section, a person convicted of violating  
35 subsection (1) of this section shall also pay restitution to the  
36 landowner of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more  
37 than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), for each animal, bird,  
38 fish, or parts thereof, taken or possessed in violation of this  
39 section. The total amount of restitution authorized by this  
40 paragraph shall be paid to the landowner; and shall not exceed an  
41 aggregate total of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)  
42 regardless of the number of animals unlawfully taken or possessed  
43 in violation of this section.



44           **SECTION 2.** Section 97-17-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
45 amended as follows:

46           97-17-85. Except as otherwise provided in Sections 73-13-103  
47 and 49-7-79, if any person shall go upon the enclosed land of  
48 another without his consent, after having been notified by such  
49 person or his agent not to do so, either personally or by  
50 published or posted notice, or shall remain on such land after a  
51 request by such person or his agent to depart, he shall, upon  
52 conviction, be fined not more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for such  
53 offense. The provisions of this section shall apply to land not  
54 enclosed where the stock law is in force.

55           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
56 and after July 1, 2024.

