

By: Senator(s) Suber

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2652
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL PERSONS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO
2 PROCURE A WILD TURKEY STAMP BEFORE HUNTING WILD TURKEYS IN THE
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO ESTABLISH THE FEE FOR NONRESIDENT HUNTERS
4 AND PROVIDE THAT THERE SHALL BE NO FEE FOR RESIDENT HUNTERS; TO
5 PROVIDE FOR THE FURNISHING OF THE STAMP; TO SET PENALTIES FOR
6 VIOLATIONS; TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH FUNDS RAISED FROM
7 THE SALE OF STAMPS MAY BE EXPENDED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the
10 following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed
11 herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 (a) "Wild turkey" means the game bird *Meleagris*
13 *gallopavo*.

14 (b) "Stamp" means the state wild turkey stamp, either
15 in its physical or electronic form, furnished by the commission.
16 A stamp is a specialized permit required for hunting wild turkeys,
17 with proceeds directly dispersed into the conservation,
18 management, protection or scientific research of wild turkeys.

19 (c) "Harvest tag" means the physical or electronic tool
20 used to serve as an inventory of the annual bag limit allotted to



21 individual wild turkey hunters. Harvest tags are invalidated upon
22 the harvest of a wild turkey. Physical tags may be required to be
23 attached to the wild turkey following harvest.

24 (d) "Nongovernmental entity" means a nonprofit
25 organization primarily concerned with the protection and
26 conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its
27 organizational documents.

28 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person sixteen (16) years
29 of age or older to hunt or take wild turkeys during any open wild
30 turkey season in the State of Mississippi without first having
31 procured a stamp. The electronic stamp on file with the
32 commission shall serve as proof of procurement.

33 (3) The fee to nonresident hunters for each stamp shall be
34 Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). There shall be no fee for resident
35 hunters. Each stamp shall be valid through the final day of the
36 spring wild turkey season following its purchase. After its
37 expiration, another stamp must be procured in order to hunt or
38 take wild turkeys in a future open wild turkey season.

39 (4) The commission may make the procurement of harvest tags
40 dependent upon the purchase of a stamp.

41 (5) The commission shall determine the form of the stamp.
42 The commission shall furnish physical stamps to bonded agents for
43 issuance or sale in the same manner as other types of licenses or
44 shall cause the electronic stamp to accrue to the purchaser's
45 benefit when purchased from an automated point-of-sale source.



46 (6) Any person violating any of the provisions of this
47 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
48 shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more
49 than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) as prescribed in Section
50 49-7-101.

51 (7) All revenue from the proceeds of stamps shall only be
52 used and expended for the following objectives:

53 (a) Paying administrative or processing costs
54 associated with a physical or electronic harvest tag program, or
55 any other program governing or regulating the harvest of wild
56 turkeys;

57 (b) Restoring, enhancing or protecting wild turkey
58 populations or their habitats on public or private lands in
59 Mississippi as prescribed by the department;

60 (c) Funding scientific research, as conducted by
61 qualified professionals, into the ecology or management of wild
62 turkeys, their habitats or their predators; and

63 (d) Increasing access to publicly available turkey
64 hunting opportunities.

65 (8) Proceeds from stamps may be used as matching funds or
66 fiscal leverage to secure grants or other financial awards are
67 deemed to align with the objectives in subsection (7) of this
68 section.



69 (9) The commission may enter into agreements with other
70 state, federal or nongovernmental entities to execute the
71 objectives in subsection (7) of this section.

72 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new
73 section in Title 49, Chapter 7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

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

