

By: Senator(s) Suber

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2662

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-31.5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ENACT THE JOHNNY KAKALES ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT PERSONS
3 AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION TO HUNT, TRAP AND TAKE WILD HOGS MAY DO
4 SO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DRONES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-31.5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-31.5. (1) The hunting, trapping and taking of nuisance
9 animals shall be regulated by the commission. The commission may
10 adopt regulations to regulate the hunting, trapping and taking of
11 nuisance animals and to control the population of nuisance
12 animals.

13 (2) (a) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
14 designated agents may take predatory and nuisance animals
15 year-round on lands owned or leased by them.

16 (b) Landowners, agricultural leaseholders or their
17 designated agents may take nuisance animals with any type of
18 weapon and may take nuisance animals during the night after legal



19 hunting hours on lands owned or leased by them with a permit
20 issued by the department.

21 (c) No license is required for a resident landowner
22 hunting or trapping nuisance animals on his own land. An
23 agricultural leaseholder, designated agent and any other person
24 must possess either an all-game hunting license or trapping
25 license, unless otherwise exempt.

26 (d) No license is required for a recipient of the
27 Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat, to hunt nuisance
28 animals on private lands. Persons exempt from purchasing a
29 hunting license under this paragraph shall have in their
30 possession and on their person a copy of their DD-214 discharge
31 form indicating the receipt of the Purple Heart Medal and any
32 proof as may be required by the commission or the Department of
33 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, while engaged in such activities.

34 (3) The taking of any animal or animals other than nuisance
35 animals by the use of a trap or traps is unlawful except during
36 the time the season is open for the taking of fur-bearing animals.

37 (4) Nuisance animals may be run, chased or pursued with
38 dogs, except as provided in Section 49-7-32, year-round by
39 licensed hunters.

40 (5) Nuisance animals may be hunted with the aid of
41 electronic calls.



42 (6) Nuisance animals may be hunted or trapped with the aid
43 of bait and lures, on private lands, according to regulations
44 adopted by the commission.

45 (7) Any part of a nuisance animal may be bought and sold
46 year-round.

47 (8) (a) Wild hogs may not be caught or trapped and released
48 into the wild at a location different from the location where the
49 wild hog was caught or trapped, or otherwise transported live in
50 the State of Mississippi.

51 (b) A violation of this subsection is a Class I
52 violation and is punishable as provided under Section 49-7-141.

53 (9) When hunting wild hogs during any open gun season on
54 deer, a hunter must wear in full view at least five hundred (500)
55 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

56 (10) This subsection (10) shall be known and may be cited as
57 the "Johnny Kakales Act." Persons authorized by this section to
58 hunt, trap and take wild hogs may do so with the assistance of
59 unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones.

60 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2024.

