

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2652: Wild turkey stamps; require for wild turkey hunters 16 years of age or older.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

17 (a) "Wild turkey" means the game bird *Meleagris*
18 *gallopavo*.

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

24 (c) "Harvest tag" means the electronic tool used to
25 serve as an inventory of the annual bag limit allotted to
26 individual wild turkey hunters. Harvest tags are invalidated upon
27 the harvest of a wild turkey.



28 (d) "Nongovernmental entity" means a nonprofit
29 organization primarily concerned with the protection and
30 conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its
31 organizational documents.

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

37 (3) The fee to resident hunters for each stamp shall be Ten
38 Dollars (\$10.00). The fee to nonresident hunters for each stamp
39 shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The holder of a resident
40 or nonresident lifetime sportsman license shall be exempt from
41 paying the fee. Each stamp shall be valid through the final day
42 of the spring wild turkey season following its purchase. After
43 its expiration, another stamp must be procured in order to hunt or
44 take wild turkeys in a future open wild turkey season.

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

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



52 (6) Any person violating any of the provisions of this
53 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
54 shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more
55 than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) as prescribed in Section
56 49-7-101.

57 (7) All revenue from the proceeds of stamps shall be
58 deposited into the Fisheries and Wildlife Fund created in Section
59 49-5-21 and shall be used and expended only for the following
60 objectives:

61 (a) Paying administrative or processing costs
62 associated with an electronic harvest tag program, or any other
63 program governing or regulating the harvest of wild turkeys;

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

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

70 (d) Increasing access to publicly available turkey
71 hunting opportunities.

72 (8) Proceeds from stamps may be used as matching funds or
73 fiscal leverage to secure grants or other financial awards which
74 are deemed to align with the objectives in subsection (7) of this
75 section. No such proceeds shall be expended for administrative
76 salaries.



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

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

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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 RESIDENT AND
4 NONRESIDENT HUNTERS, AND TO EXEMPT HOLDERS OF A LIFETIME SPORTSMAN
5 LICENSE FROM THE FEE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE FURNISHING OF THE STAMP;
6 TO SET PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL REVENUE FROM
7 THE PROCEEDS OF STAMPS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE FISHERIES AND
8 WILDLIFE FUND, AND TO PROVIDE THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH SUCH
9 REVENUE MAY BE USED AND EXPENDED; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON
10 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER
11 STATE, FEDERAL OR NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO EXECUTE SUCH
12 OBJECTIVES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Whaley

X (SIGNED)
Kinkade

X (SIGNED)
Suber

X (SIGNED)
Tubb

X (SIGNED)
Younger

X (SIGNED)
Carpenter

