

## **MBA LEGISLATIVE “UPDATED” ALERT!!!!!!!**

(Current through 2/05/2010)

**BOTH HB1137 & HB1282 PASSED THE ENTIRE HOUSE THIS WEEK AND BOTH NOW HEAD TO THE SENATE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE!!!!**

This week the full Mississippi House of Representatives approved sweeping & radical changes in Mississippi's deer season structure. The below two bills are weaving throughout the bill approval process and without your immediate assistance will certainly become law very, very soon!

The bills now head to the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee where they could be voted on as early as next Tuesday. The Chairman has full authority on when to bring the two bills up and these bills have a Committee deadline of March 2. They can be voted on anytime between now and then.

**Let's quickly recap where we stand:**

**HB1137- This bill would have the potential to create an October 1 gun opener on 1.6 million acres of DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program) properties in Mississippi.** A club or landowner under the DMAP program would request authorization from the MDWFP to take antlerless deer with any weapon (gun) starting on October 1 and the MDWFP would review the request for approval. The great concern of this program is that clubs & landowners would rush to be on the early gun opener program... and create a demand for a four month season statewide. We saw years ago “doe permits” being used to entice clubs on the DMAP program and eventually the doe harvest program was allowed statewide. Also how does enforcement know the antlerless deer is taken on DMAP and not some other place? How can it be enforced to apply only to DMAP? What about temptation for firearm users when that big buck walks by in October? These are issues that we don't have answers for.

**HB1282- This will outright close the archery only season on October 31 to start a new primitive weapon season on November 1.** Can you imagine losing up to 19 days of archery only in the very best time of the year with a bow & arrow! Given that this bill would also end all December & January primitive weapon seasons, the net effect would create four more weeks of modern gun season without even considering the archery season loss. If the 19 extra PW days are added in November, it would leave only approximately four weekends of archery only season. One of those weekends could potentially be youth firearm, leaving Mississippi bowhunters with only THREE weekends that the hunter doesn't have to wear the blaze orange attire.

**So here's what I would like to respectfully ask each of you to do IN THIS VERY SERIOUS TIME FOR Mississippi's bowhunting future:**

**WE NEED ONLY 6 "NO" VOTES ON THE SENATE FISHERIES AND PARKS COMMITTEE TO KILL BOTH HB1137 & HB1282. THEREFORE, LETS JUST CALL THE SENATE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THIS TIME.**

**There are only 11 Senate Wildlife members and 6 votes is a majority! We need to call, email, write letters, & call our friends to do the same. This same committee that we are asking you to call killed SB2922 (the crossbow bill) earlier this year! Hopefully they will help on this as well. This represents our best & last chance at avoiding the radical change that these bills contain. The contact information provided is just on just those very important 11 senators. Given that this could be voted on as early as next week, please start making your calls as soon as possible. Rest assured, the MBA is at the Capitol representing your bowhunting interest, but we need your help!!**

Thank you in advance for your help and consideration from the MBA officers, directors, and the legislative committee.

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