



HOUSE BILL 321: Wildlife License Changes.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: June 14, 2018
Introduced by: Rep. Dixon	Prepared by: Kyle Evans
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 321 would make changes to the Wildlife Resource Commission's (WRC) managed hunt program and fees, create new licenses for residents and nonresidents to hunt American alligators and elk, and allow box-trapped rabbits to be used for the purpose of training hunting dogs.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would allow the WRC to schedule managed hunting opportunities for wildlife administered through permits. Permit recipients would be selected at random by computer. There would be a nonrefundable application fee of eight dollars (\$8.00), and the WRC would be allowed to charge a two dollar (\$2.00) transaction fee for applications sold directly by WRC online, by phone, mail, or at a service counter. The current application fee is five dollars (\$5.00), and there is no transaction fee.

Section 2 would add a June 30 expiration date to both the nonresident bear hunting license and the bear management stamp. This Section would also create resident and nonresident hunting licenses for both American alligators and elk, all with June 30 expiration dates. The fees would be as follows:

	Resident	Nonresident
American Alligator	\$250	\$500
Elk	\$500	\$1,000

Section 3 would prohibit a landholder, a landholder's spouse, or a landholder's minor dependents from taking American alligators or elks upon land held by the landholder without the requisite licenses established in Section 2. Additionally, this Section would prohibit any person under 16 years of age from hunting American alligators or elks without the requisite licenses established in Section 2.

This Section would also allow box-trapped rabbits to be released for the purpose of training dogs on an area of private land which is completely enclosed with a metal fence through which rabbits may not escape or enter at any time. The WRC would be permitted to establish rules to set standards for areas on which rabbits are released.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective July 1, 2018.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2478