



HOUSE BILL 991: Fox Trapping Local Omnibus.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: June 12, 2018
Introduced by: Reps. K. Hall, Goodman, Torbett	Prepared by: Jessica Sammons
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 991 would make various changes to local acts pertaining to the hunting and trapping of foxes and coyotes. The bill would become effective October 1, 2018.*

CURRENT LAW: Fox trapping is allowed in 43 counties. In some counties, trappers are exempt from tagging requirements, and in some counties, the sale of foxes is prohibited.

G.S. 113-291.4(g) requires the Wildlife Resources Commission to implement a system of tagging foxes and fox furs with a special fox tag. The fox tag must be procured before taking foxes.

G.S. 113-133.1 provides for the Statewide regulation of conservation of wildlife resources by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Subsection (e) of G.S. 113-133.1 retains certain local laws and statutes for individual counties that were repealed by G.S. 113-133.1(b).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of House Bill 991 would make the following changes in Cabarrus, Gaston, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Montgomery, Rowan, Rutherford, and Stokes Counties:

- Provide for an open season for taking foxes with weapons.
- Provide for the trapping of foxes and coyotes during trapping seasons set by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Provide for no tagging requirements prior to or after sale.

Section 2 of House Bill 991 would repeal the following local acts pertaining to fox trapping:

- S.L. 1947-333 – Davie County: Provides an open season on foxes; prohibition on importation and release of foxes in Davie County.
- S.L. 1951-1040 – Madison County: Unlawful for any person to poison, trap, or kill red foxes.
- S.L. 1973-114 – Rutherford & McDowell Counties: Unlawful for any person to take by gun, trap, or otherwise, or to kill or destroy by any means, any red fox, unless fox was committing depredations to property or may become a menace to the public health or safety.
- Sections 1 and 3 of S.L. 1977-1142 – Montgomery County: No closed season for hunting foxes with dogs or guns; lawful to take or attempt to take foxes with dogs.
- S.L. 1989-134 – Jones County: Open season for the hunting, taking, or killing of foxes with firearms from November 1 through December 31 of each year.
- Sections 1 and 2 of S.L. 2008-102 – Stokes County: Open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping from the first Saturday in January through the last Saturday in January of each year, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale; no bag limit applies to taken foxes.

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Legislative Analysis
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House Bill 991

Page 2

- Sections 3 of S.L. 1975-219 – Greene County: Unlawful to hunt fox, either red or gray, with firearms during the two-week deer season. (As repealed in S.L. 2010-82. Section 2 of this bill would remove this section from the list of retained local acts.)

Section 3 of House Bill 991 would make the following changes in Davie County and in those portions of Forsyth County outside the city limits of the City of Winston-Salem:

- Provide for an open season for taking coyotes and foxes with weapons.
- Provide for the trapping of foxes and coyotes during trapping seasons set by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Provide for no tagging requirements prior to or after sale.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective October 1, 2018.

BACKGROUND: More information on fox trapping seasons for different counties can be found at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Regs/Documents/fox-season-dates.pdf>.

More information on coyote trapping can be found at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Regs/Documents/Trapping-Regulations.pdf>.