



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 233: Modify Fox/Coyote Taking for Certain Counties.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Wildlife Resources. If favorable, re-fer to Local Government. If favorable, re-fer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	September 23, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Craven, Burgin	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 233 would modify a list of counties that, during the trapping seasons annually set by the Wildlife Resources Commission, have an open season for taking foxes with weapons and trapping foxes and coyotes with no tagging requirements or bag limits.

CURRENT LAW AND ANALYSIS:

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. 113-291.4B provides that twelve counties have an open season for taking foxes with weapons and trapping foxes and coyotes, with no tagging requirements or bag limit, during the annual trapping season set by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Senate Bill 233 would add Guilford, Harnett, Onslow, and Randolph Counties to the list of counties in G.S. 113-291.4B and remove Cumberland County from that list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2021 and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

BACKGROUND: In November 2018, North Carolina voters approved an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution stating that it is the "right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is a valued part of the State's heritage and shall be forever preserved for the public good." The amendment further provides that the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is subject only to laws enacted by the General Assembly to (i) promote wildlife conservation and management and (ii) preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The amendment also provided that it did not modify any provision of law relating to trespass, property rights, or eminent domain. At this time, no appellate court decisions have been issued to interpret this Section of the Constitution.

More information on fox taking and fox and coyote trapping seasons for different counties can be found [here](#). More information on fox harvesting seasons can also be found [here](#).

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