



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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 14, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Craven, Burgin	Prepared by:	Jonathan Zator
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-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.*

State law regarding foxes, coupled with local laws, has resulted in 27 fox hunting seasons with weapons in 89 counties, and 23 fox trapping seasons in 55 counties.

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 Subsection (e) of G.S. 113-133.1 retains certain local laws and statutes for individual counties that were repealed by G.S. 113-133.1(b).

12 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 (G.S. 113-291.4B). Senate Bill 233 would add Guilford, Harnett, and Randolph counties to the list and remove Cumberland County from the 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 included language 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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