



SENATE BILL 339: 2022 WRC Amendments.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	July 1, 2022
Introduced by:	Sens. Sawyer, Britt	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 339 would:*

- *Increase penalties for violations of emergency powers or rules exercised to respond to a wildlife disease.*
- *Reduce fees for a fur dealer license and amend the definition of "dealing in furs."*
- *Include public mountain trout waters in the Resident Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver.*
- *Define the phrase "domestically raised waterfowl and game birds" to mean propagated mallard ducks, bobwhite quail, ringed neck pheasants, chukar partridges, and Hungarian partridges.*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Unless an exception applies, the penalty for offenses created by rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is limited to a fine of \$25.00.

Section 1 of the PCS would provide that the limitation on penalty does not apply for rule violations related to a violation of emergency powers exercised to respond to a wildlife disease that threatens irreparable injury to wildlife or the public. This section would also provide that a person who violates emergency powers or rules adopted to respond to a wildlife disease that threatens irreparable injury to wildlife or the public is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor for a first conviction or a Class 2 misdemeanor for a second or subsequent conviction within three years.

This section would become effective December 1, 2022 and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Section 2 would provide that "dealing in furs" means any individual who buys and sells the raw furs, pelts, or skins of fur-bearing animals or other wild animals that may lawfully be sold. It would also clarify that a hunter or trapper who has lawfully taken wild animals whose fur or pelts may be sold is not considered a fur dealer if the hunter or trapper exclusively sells the raw furs, pelts, and skins – not the wild animals – to licensed fur dealers. This section would also reduce the cost of a resident fur-dealer license from \$60.00 to \$30.00 and the cost of a nonresident fur-dealer license from \$300.00 to \$60.00.

This section would become effective August 1, 2022.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

Senate Bill 339

Page 2

Under current law, a county must issue a Resident Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver, at no cost, to an individual who receives benefits from Medicaid, Food and Nutrition Services, or Work First Family Assistance through the county department of social services and who requests a waiver. The waiver authorizes the holder to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, except for public mountain trout waters, and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters.

Section 5 would allow the holder of a waiver to fish in public mountain trout waters.

Section 6 would define the term "domestically raised waterfowl and game birds" to mean "propagated mallard ducks in accordance with 50 C.F.R. § 21.13, bobwhite quail, ringed neck pheasants, chukar partridges, and Hungarian partridges." This phrase appears twice in Chapter 113 of the General Statutes, in reference to retriever field trials authorized by WRC and hunters training dogs during the closed season.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.

Chris Saunders, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.