



# SENATE BILL 339: 2022 WRC Amendments.

2021-2022 General Assembly

---

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 30, 2022
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Sawyer, Britt	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition S339-CSTQf-53		Staff Attorney

---

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for 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."*
- *Allow the use of natural deer urine products identified as free of chronic wasting disease by an independent laboratory.*
- *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.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

# Senate 339 PCS

Page 2

This section would become effective August 1, 2022.

In 2021, the General Assembly directed WRC to prohibit the possession and use of substances that contain excretions collected from a cervid for the purpose of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife, except for:

- Products containing synthetic analogs of cervid excretions and labeled as such.
- Products consisting of or containing natural substances collected by a hunter from a legally harvested cervid in North Carolina.
- Natural substances collected from facilities within North Carolina that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and are labeled as such.
- Natural deer urine products containing excretions from facilities within North Carolina that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and are labeled as such.
- Natural deer urine products containing excretions from facilities that are determined to be free of chronic wasting disease (CWD) based on testing by an independent laboratory, complies with a federally approved CWD certification program and federal CWD protocols, and participates in additional herd management as required by WRC.

**Section 3** would repeal the direction from 2021 and **Section 4** would direct WRC to amend the list of allowed products containing cervid secretions to include only:

- Products containing synthetic analogs of cervid excretions and labeled as such.
- Natural deer urine products identified as free of CWD based on testing by an independent laboratory using a method that may help detect the presence of CWD prions, from facilities that comply with a federally approved CWD herd certification program and any federal CWD protocols.

Section 4, and rules adopted pursuant to that section, would apply to any cervid excretions used for hunting on or after August 1, 2022. This section would expire when permanent rules adopted as required by this section become effective.

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

# Senate 339 PCS

*Page 3*

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 would be effective when it becomes law.