



SENATE BILL 339: 2022 WRC Amendments.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	July 14, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Chris Saunders Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2022-65		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2022-65 does all of the following:*

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

This act has various effective dates, please see the full summary for more information.

PRIOR LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Unless an exception applies, the penalty for offenses created by rules of the Wildlife Resource Commission (WRC) is limited to a fine of \$25.

Section 1 of S.L. 2022-65 provides 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 also provides 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 becomes effective December 1, 2022, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Section 2 provides that "dealing in furs" refers to 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 also clarifies that a hunter or trapper who has lawfully taken wild animals whose fur or pelts can 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 also reduces the cost of a resident fur-dealer license from \$60 to \$30 and the cost of a nonresident fur-dealer license from \$300 to \$60.

This section became effective August 1, 2022.

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

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and who requests a waiver. The waiver previously authorized 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 allows the holder of a waiver to fish in public mountain trout waters in addition to all other waters allowed under prior law.

Section 6 defines 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 became effective July 8, 2022.