



SENATE BILL 66: Regulate Use of Deer Secretions for Hunting.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	February 7, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Kyle Evans Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2021-176		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2021-176 disapproves an amendment to a rule prohibiting the use of deer secretions for the purposes of hunting, adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), and directs WRC to readopt the amendment consistent with certain guidelines for harvesting, collecting, and disease testing.*

This act became effective November 11, 2021, and applies to any cervid excretions used for hunting on or after December 1, 2021. Section 2 of this act expires when permanent rules adopted pursuant to Section 2(d) become effective.

CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND: The possession and use of deer secretions for taking, attracting, or scouting wildlife is currently allowed in North Carolina.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious prion disease that affects cervids, including deer and elk. Though the exact transmission mechanism is unknown, CWD is thought to be transmitted directly through animal-to-animal contact as well as indirectly through contaminated landscapes and materials. It can take over 16 months after infection for an afflicted animal to develop clinical symptoms of the disease. Once they do, the infected animals become emaciated and eventually die. At this time, no confirmed cases of CWD have been found in North Carolina, but cases have been found in Tennessee and Virginia.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the act disapproves an amendment to rule 15A NCAC 10B .0201 (Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take), adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission on February 25, 2020, and approved by the RRC on April 16, 2020. The amendment to the rule would have prohibited the use of deer secretions for the purposes of hunting. The prohibition would not have applied to natural substances collected by an individual from non-farmed cervids legally taken in North Carolina or synthetic products.

Section 2 of the act directs WRC to adopt a rule prohibiting the use of deer secretions for the purposes of hunting, but exempt the following products from that prohibition:

- Products containing synthetic analogs of deer secretions;
- Products containing natural substances collected by a hunter from a legally harvested cervid in North Carolina;
- Natural substances collected from North Carolina facilities that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS);

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- Natural deer urine products containing excretions from North Carolina facilities that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from DACS; and
- Natural deer urine products from facilities that meet certain WRC herd management requirements, federal herd certification program requirements or protocols, and CWD testing requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective November 11, 2021, and applies to any cervid excretions used for hunting on or after December 1, 2021. Section 2 of this act expires when permanent rules adopted pursuant to Section 2(d) become effective.