



HOUSE BILL 93: Allow Preserve Operators to Purchase Rabbits.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Wildlife Resources. If favorable, re-fer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 5, 2023
Introduced by:	Rep. Moss	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 93 would allow the operator of a controlled rabbit hunting preserve to purchase live box-trapped rabbits from a licensed hunter and to take live rabbits from their preserves for sale to other licensed operators.*

CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND:

There are currently three types of private controlled hunting preserves licensed by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC):

- An area marked with appropriate signs along the outside boundaries on which only domestically raised chukars, Hungarian partridges, and game birds other than wild turkeys are taken.
- An area enclosed with a dog-proof fence on which rabbits may be hunted with dogs only.
- An area enclosed with a dog-proof fence on which foxes and coyotes may be hunted with dogs only.

The operators of a controlled fox hunting preserve may purchase live foxes and coyotes from licensed trappers who live-trap foxes and coyotes during any open season for trapping them and may take live foxes from their preserves for sale to other licensed operators.

There is no trapping season for rabbits. However, during the hunting season for rabbits, both hunting and box-trapping of rabbits is allowed. A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary. The sale of live rabbits is generally prohibited.

The rabbit hunting and box-trapping season for 2022-2023 ran from October 17, 2022, to February 28, 2023. The proposed rabbit hunting and box-trapping season for 2023-2024 is from October 16, 2023, to February 29, 2024.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 93 would allow the operator of a controlled rabbit hunting preserve to purchase live box-trapped rabbits from a licensed hunter during any open season for trapping them. It would also allow the operator of a controlled rabbit hunting preserve to take live rabbits from his or her preserve for sale to other licensed operators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective when it becomes law.

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Legislative Analysis
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