



# HOUSE BILL 382: Elk Permit Auction/Raffle.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Wildlife Resources. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 25, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Huneycutt, Bell, Gillespie, Turner	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Aaron McGlothlin
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 382 would direct the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to issue two Elk Permits for the 2026 hunting season: one by a raffle conducted by WRC and one by an auction conducted by a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization selected by WRC. For hunting seasons after the 2026 hunting season, WRC would be authorized to continue issuing Elk Permits through the raffle and auction program based on its evaluation of its elk management goals. This bill would also direct WRC to report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the auction and raffle programs.*

## CURRENT LAW / BACKGROUND:

15A NCAC 10B .0225 provides that the season for taking elk runs from October 1 to November 1, taking elk shall be by permit only with a bag limit of one elk per permit, and that elk may be taken by any legal weapon as defined in G.S. 113-291.1.

In 2016, WRC resolved to "delay the issuance of any elk hunting permits until such time as the sustainability and allocation of harvest among State, federal, and tribal lands are determined."

S.L. 2018-90 created a Resident Elk License and a Nonresident Elk License. The license would allow an individual to take elk during the open elk season by methods authorized by WRC. At this time, WRC has not issued any elk hunting licenses.

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1(a)** would direct WRC to issue two Elk Permits for the 2026 hunting season: one resident Elk Permit by raffle, and one Elk Permit by auction. Any elk taken must be reported and presented to WRC staff pursuant to the conditions of the permit issued. Permits issued under this act may not be transferred, resold, or reassigned.

**Section 1(b)** would direct WRC to conduct the raffle for one resident Elk Permit issued for the 2026 hunting season. Raffle tickets would be sold for \$20 per ticket or a maximum of 30 raffle tickets for \$500. Purchasers of raffle tickets would be required to either have a valid hunting license or qualify for a license exemption. From the proceeds collected from the raffle, WRC would be allowed to retain its actual costs of administering the raffle, up to 25% of the total proceeds collected. WRC would deposit the remaining proceeds in the Wildlife Resources Fund to be used for the conservation and management of elk.

**Section 1(c)** would direct WRC to select one nonprofit wildlife conservation organization involved in the reintroduction of elk into North Carolina to conduct an auction for one Elk Permit. The nonprofit wildlife conservation organization would be allowed to retain no more than 25% of the proceeds of the auction for an Elk Permit. WRC would deposit the remaining proceeds in the Wildlife Resources Fund to be used for the conservation and management of elk.

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**Section 1(d)** would allow WRC, based on its evaluation of its elk management goals, to continue issuing Elk Permits for future hunting seasons by way of raffle and auction in the same manner as provided in this bill for the 2026 hunting season, except that WRC would be allowed to raffle off more than one Elk Permit per year.

The following restrictions would apply to future hunting seasons: (i) WRC would not be allowed to issue an Elk Permit via auction without also issuing one or more through raffle; and (ii) WRC would be required to reserve for North Carolina residents half of all Elk Permits made available via raffle.

**Section 1(e)** would state the intent of the General Assembly that the receipts generated by these raffles and auctions only supplement, rather than replace, other funds budgeted for elk management.

**Section 1(f)** would direct WRC to submit a report by March 1, 2027, on the effectiveness of the Elk Permit raffle and auction program to the House Wildlife Resources Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division. WRC would be required to submit this report every year in which it conducts Elk Permit raffles and auctions.

**Sections 2-3** would make conforming changes to the State wildlife statutes to include "elk" in the definition of "Game Animals" and require hunters to wear hunter orange when hunting elk.

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

*Kyle Evans, staff attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*