



**House Ports, Waterways & Intermodal Transit  
Engrossed Substitute for HB248**

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to natural resources; to require the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue a permit for the introduction of black bass into the Coosa River in certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall issue a permit to a municipality or private entity associated with fishing or conservation allowing the introduction and placement of black bass into the Coosa River if all of the following are satisfied:

(1) The municipality or private entity obtains the black bass from a fish hatchery located in this state that is approved by the department.

(2) The only black bass being introduced or placed into the Coosa River are the Northern Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) subspecies, the Florida Bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) subspecies, or a first generation offspring of these two subspecies.



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29           (3) The municipality or private entity bears all costs  
30 associated with the purchase, transport, and introduction of  
31 black bass.

32           (b) The commissioner, under his or her authority  
33 granted in Section 9-2-2 and 9-2-7, Code of Alabama 1975, may  
34 deny a permit for the introduction and placement of black bass  
35 into the Coosa River due to environmental, pathogenic, or  
36 biological factors or for the protection of public health and  
37 welfare.

38           (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the  
39 commissioner from issuing permits for the introduction and  
40 placement of other subspecies of black bass into segments of  
41 the Coosa River when the commissioner determines that the  
42 introduction and placement of those subspecies is appropriate  
43 for the fishery.

44           (d) The Department of Conservation and Natural  
45 Resources shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
46 section.

47           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
48 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
49 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.