



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources may introduce desirable species of game fish into the waters of the state.

This bill would require the commissioner to issue a permit to release black bass into the Coosa River under certain circumstances.

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:



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

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

37 (3) The municipality or private entity bears all costs
38 associated with the purchase, transport, and introduction of
39 black bass.

40 (b) The commissioner, under his or her authority
41 granted in Section 9-2-2 and 9-2-7, Code of Alabama 1975, may
42 deny a permit for the introduction and placement of black bass
43 into the Coosa River due to environmental, pathogenic, or
44 biological factors or for the protection of public health and
45 welfare.

46 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
47 commissioner from issuing permits for the introduction and
48 placement of other subspecies of black bass into segments of
49 the Coosa River when the commissioner determines that the
50 introduction and placement of those subspecies is appropriate
51 for the fishery.

52 (d) The Department of Conservation and Natural
53 Resources shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this
54 section.

55 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
56 day of the third month following its passage and approval by



57 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.