

HB509 ENGROSSED



1 HB509

2 FKP1JCD-2

3 By Representatives Sorrells, Kiel, Marques, Paramore, Smith,
4 Lipscomb, Hurst, Clouse, Brown, Rehm, Whitt, Easterbrook,
5 Fincher, Bolton, Blackshear, Lee, Oliver, Hammett, Brinyark,
6 Stringer, Lamb, Colvin, Kirkland, Hulsey, Standridge, Reynolds

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8 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry

9 First Read: 03-Apr-25



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to game breeder licensees; to amend Section 9-11-30, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit state agencies from killing, testing, and prohibiting the transfer of cervids due to disease, subject to exceptions; to provide that cervids possessed by a licensee are the personal property of that licensee; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 9-11-30, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§9-11-30

(a) For the purposes of this section, Section 9-11-31, and Section 9-11-31.1, the ~~term "protected game animals and game birds"~~ means any following terms have the following meanings:

(1) CERVID. Any member of the family Cervidae possessed by or under the care of a licensed game breeder pursuant to this section, Section 9-11-31, and Section 9-11-31.1.

(2) PROTECTED GAME ANIMALS AND GAME BIRDS. Any species of bird or animal designated by the Commissioner of



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29 Conservation and Natural Resources by ~~regulation~~ rule pursuant
30 to Section 9-2-7, species of the family Cervidae documented by
31 the department to exist in the wild in this state prior to May
32 1, 2006, which are whitetail deer, elk, and fallow deer, or
33 species of nonindigenous animals lawfully brought into this
34 state prior to May 1, 2006, and their offspring.

35 (b) (1) Pursuant to the requirements and restrictions of
36 subdivisions (2) and (3), the Commissioner of Conservation and
37 Natural Resources shall issue an annual game ~~breeder's~~ breeder
38 license to any properly accredited person, ~~firm, corporation,~~
39 ~~or association~~ authorizing a game breeder to engage in the
40 business of raising protected game birds, game animals, or
41 fur-bearing animals, for ~~propagating~~ propagation purposes in
42 this state.

43 (2) Before a license is issued, the Commissioner of
44 Conservation and Natural Resources shall make or cause to be
45 made a thorough investigation ~~and~~ to determine the
46 qualifications, responsibility, and equipment of the applicant
47 for entering upon the business of breeding, raising, and
48 handling of game birds and game or fur-bearing animals.

49 (3) No license shall be issued or renewed for any
50 person, ~~firm, corporation, or association~~ or any principal
51 officer or partner ~~in a firm, corporation, or association~~
52 ~~which~~ thereof that is convicted of violating ~~subsection (c) of~~
53 Section 9-2-13 (c) after May 1, 2006, or for the premises of
54 any person, ~~firm, corporation, or association~~ whose license
55 privileges are revoked after May 1, 2006.

56 (4) A game ~~breeder's~~ breeder license shall expire on



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57 September 30 of the year in which issued, unless renewed,
58 except that any license issued pursuant to this section
59 between May 1, 2006, and September 30, 2006, shall expire on
60 September 30, 2006.

61 (5) The commissioner shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules for
62 engaging in the business of breeding, raising, producing, and
63 handling of protected game birds and game animals or
64 fur-bearing animals or their eggs, embryos, or semen.

65 (c) (1) The fees for issuance of licenses pursuant to
66 this section shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for all
67 species, except members of the family Cervidae.

68 (2) The license fee for breeding members of the family
69 Cervidae shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the
70 first 50 animals, five hundred dollars (\$500) for 51 to 100
71 animals, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for ~~any number of~~
72 animals in excess of more than 100 animals.

73 (3) License fees under this section shall be based on
74 the number of animals on hand as of the immediately preceding
75 April 1 of each year.

76 (d) The department and any other agency of this state
77 may not do any of the following unless: (i) the specific
78 disease has been detected in another cervid possessed by or
79 under the care of the licensee; or (ii) the cervid has been
80 transferred to the licensee from another licensee and is
81 epidemiologically linked to a diseased cervid possessed by or
82 under the care of the transferring licensee:

83 (1) Require the killing of a cervid due to a disease.

84 (2) Require the antemortem disease testing of a cervid.



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85 (3) Prohibit or restrict the transfer of a cervid from
86 the premises of a licensee to another person due to a disease
87 if any of the following are satisfied:

88 a. The cervid has tested negative for the disease
89 pursuant to an antemortem test approved by the State
90 Veterinarian prior to transferring.

91 b. The cervid has a genomically estimated breeding
92 value that meets or surpasses the minimum value established by
93 the State Veterinarian, which shall include the SS allele
94 being at codon 96.

95 c. The premises from which the cervid is transferred is
96 double fenced.

97 (e) All cervids possessed by or under the care of a
98 licensee on October 1, 2025, and their offspring, are the
99 personal property of the licensee and are not the property of
100 this state."

101 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.



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House of Representatives

105 Read for the first time and referred03-Apr-25
106 to the House of Representatives
107 committee on Agriculture and
108 Forestry
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110 Read for the second time and placed09-Apr-25
111 on the calendar:
112 0 amendments
113
114 Read for the third time and passed15-Apr-25
115 as amended
116 Yeas 84
117 Nays 8
118 Abstains 9
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John Treadwell
Clerk