

HB509 INTRODUCED



1 HB509

2 FKP1JCD-1

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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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources is authorized to issue a game breeder license to certain persons to engage in the business of raising protected game animals and game birds, including certain cervids.

This bill would prohibit state agencies from killing, testing, and prohibiting the transfer of these deer due to disease except under certain circumstances.

This bill would establish that deer possessed by a licensee are the personal property of that licensee.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

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



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29 licensee; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to
30 update the existing code language to current style.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

34 "§9-11-30

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

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

42 (2) PROTECTED GAME ANIMALS AND GAME BIRDS. Any species
43 of bird or animal designated by the Commissioner of
44 Conservation and Natural Resources by ~~regulation~~ rule pursuant
45 to Section 9-2-7, species of the family Cervidae documented by
46 the department to exist in the wild in this state prior to May
47 1, 2006, which are whitetail deer, elk, and fallow deer, or
48 species of nonindigenous animals lawfully brought into this
49 state prior to May 1, 2006, and their offspring.

50 (b) (1) Pursuant to the requirements and restrictions of
51 subdivisions (2) and (3), the Commissioner of Conservation and
52 Natural Resources shall issue an annual game ~~breeder's~~ breeder
53 license to any properly accredited person, ~~firm, corporation,~~
54 ~~or association~~ authorizing a game breeder to engage in the
55 business of raising protected game birds, game animals, or
56 fur-bearing animals, for ~~propagating~~ propagation purposes in



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57 this state.

58 (2) Before a license is issued, the Commissioner of
59 Conservation and Natural Resources shall make or cause to be
60 made a thorough investigation ~~and~~ to determine the
61 qualifications, responsibility, and equipment of the applicant
62 for entering upon the business of breeding, raising, and
63 handling of game birds and game or fur-bearing animals.

64 (3) No license shall be issued or renewed for any
65 person, ~~firm, corporation, or association~~ or ~~any~~ principal
66 officer or partner ~~in a firm, corporation, or association~~
67 ~~which~~ thereof that is convicted of violating ~~subsection (c) of~~
68 Section 9-2-13 (c) after May 1, 2006, or for the premises of
69 any person, ~~firm, corporation, or association~~ whose license
70 privileges are revoked after May 1, 2006.

71 (4) A game ~~breeder's~~ breeder license shall expire on
72 September 30 of the year in which issued, unless renewed,
73 except that any license issued pursuant to this section
74 between May 1, 2006, and September 30, 2006, shall expire on
75 September 30, 2006.

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

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

83 (2) The license fee for breeding members of the family
84 Cervidae shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the



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85 first 50 animals, five hundred dollars (\$500) for 51 to 100
86 animals, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for ~~any number of~~
87 ~~animals in excess of~~ more than 100 animals.

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

91 (d) The department and any other agency of this state
92 may not do any of the following unless: (i) the specific
93 disease has been detected in another cervid possessed by or
94 under the care of the licensee; or (ii) the cervid has been
95 transferred to the licensee from another licensee and is
96 epidemiologically linked to a diseased cervid possessed by or
97 under the care of the transferring licensee:

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

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

100 (3) Prohibit or restrict the transfer of a cervid from
101 the premises of a licensee to another person due to disease.

102 (e) All cervids possessed by or under the care of a
103 licensee on October 1, 2025, and their offspring, are the
104 personal property of the licensee and are not the property of
105 this state."

106 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.