**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 50‑9‑680 SO AS TO CREATE A COYOTE BOUNTY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE PAYMENTS FOR ADULT COYOTES LAWFULLY REMOVED FROM THIS STATE; BY ADDING SECTION 50‑9‑930 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING TO BE USED TO ADMINISTER THE COYOTE BOUNTY PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑450, RELATING TO COMMERCIAL FUR LICENSES, SO AS TO REQUIRE A LICENSE TO SELL OR TAKE THE PELTS OF CERTAIN FUR‑BEARING ANIMALS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 50‑9‑510 AND 50‑9‑515, BOTH RELATING TO HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, BOTH SO AS TO INCREASE CERTAIN FEES BY ONE DOLLAR; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑920, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE REVENUES FROM THE SALE OF LICENSES, SO AS TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT FUNDS FROM ANTLERED DEER TAGS BE USED TO ADMINISTER THE COYOTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2450, RELATING TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FUR LICENSEES, SO AS TO ALTER A CODE REFERENCE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2540, RELATING TO TRAPPING SEASON FOR FUR‑BEARING ANIMALS, SO AS TO ESTABLISH THAT IT IS LAWFUL TO TRAP CERTAIN FUR‑BEARING ANIMALS AND TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS LAWFUL TO TRAP COYOTES YEAR ROUND.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 6, Chapter 9, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑9‑680. (A) There is created a Coyote Bounty Program to be funded pursuant to Section 50‑9‑930 and implemented by the department.

(B) For each adult coyote removed from this State, the department must pay a bounty of seventy‑five dollars.

(C) The department may not make a bounty payment unless:

(1) the department determines the coyote was lawfully removed within the boundaries of this State by a licensed resident hunter in accordance with the requirements of the program; and

(2) funds provided to the Coyote Bounty Program are available to pay the bounty.

(D) A person making a false claim for a bounty is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars. Each false claim constitutes a separate offense.

(E) The department must promulgate regulations for the administration of the program and to establish requirements.”

SECTION 2. Article 9, Chapter 9, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑9‑930. The following must be remitted to the department to administer the Coyote Bounty Program:

(1) one dollar generated from the sale of each nonresident hunting license;

(2) one dollar generated from sale of each nonresident big game permit;

(3) one dollar generated from the sale of each annual resident statewide hunting license;

(4) three dollars generated from the sale of each three‑year resident statewide hunting license;

(5) one dollar generated from the sale of each annual resident big game permit;

(6) three dollars generated from the sale of each three‑year resident big game permit;

(7) one dollar from the sale of each annual resident combination license;

(8) three dollars from the sale of each three‑year resident combination license;

(9) one dollar from the sale of each annual resident sportsman’s license;

(10) three dollars from the sale of each three‑year resident sportsman’s license; and

(11) five dollars from the sale of each resident antler restriction individual antlered deer tag.”

SECTION 3. Section 50‑9‑450 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑9‑450. (A) In addition to a valid state hunting license, an annual commercial fur license is required of all persons who sell or take, by any means, red and gray fox, raccoon, opossum, muskrat, mink, skunk, otter, bobcat, weasel, or beaver for commercial purposes~~, and all persons who trap or who attempt to trap any fur bearing animals~~.

(B) The annual commercial fur license is issued by the department at a cost of twenty‑five dollars for residents and two hundred dollars for nonresidents.

(C) Any person having in his possession more than five fur‑bearing animals provided in subsection (A) or more than five raw or green pelts ~~shall~~ must have a valid commercial fur license. The provisions of this section do not apply to a processor, manufacturer, or retailer.

~~(B)~~(D) A person under the age of sixteen may purchase a commercial fur license without having to purchase a state hunting license after completing the ‘Trappers Education Course’.

~~(C)~~(E) A person under the age of sixteen is exempt from the licensing requirements of this section while in the presence of a commercial fur licensee, but may not sell any fur‑bearing animals or raw or green pelts unless licensed.”

SECTION 4. A. Section 50‑9‑510(A) and (B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) For the privilege of hunting:

(1) a resident must purchase:

(a) an annual statewide hunting license for ~~twelve~~ thirteen dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) a three year statewide hunting license for ~~thirty‑six~~ thirty‑nine dollars, three dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(c) a lifetime statewide hunting license for three hundred dollars at designated licensing locations; or

(d) any other license which grants statewide hunting privileges;

(2) a resident who meets the qualifications as an apprentice hunter must purchase an annual statewide apprentice hunting license for twelve dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(3) a nonresident must purchase:

(a) a three‑day temporary statewide hunting license for ~~forty~~ forty‑one dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) a ten‑day temporary statewide hunting license for ~~seventy‑five~~ seventy‑six dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(c) an annual statewide hunting license for one hundred ~~twenty‑five~~ twenty‑six dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(d) any other license which grants statewide hunting privileges;

(4) a nonresident who meets the qualifications as an apprentice hunter must purchase an annual statewide apprentice hunting license for one hundred twenty‑five dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain.

(B) For the privilege of hunting big game:

(1) a resident must purchase in addition to the required hunting license:

(a) an annual big game permit for ~~six~~ seven dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) a three‑year big game permit for ~~eighteen~~ twenty‑one dollars, three dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(c) any other license which grants big game privileges;

(2) a nonresident must purchase in addition to the required hunting license:

(a) an annual big game permit for one hundred one dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(b) any other license which grants big game privileges.”

B. Section 50‑9‑515 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑9‑515. For the combined statewide privilege of:

(1) hunting, including the privilege of hunting big game and freshwater fishing, a resident may purchase:

(a) an annual combination license for ~~twenty‑five~~ twenty‑six dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(b) a three‑year combination license for ~~seventy‑five~~ seventy‑eight dollars, six dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain.

(2) hunting, including the privilege of hunting big game and hunting on wildlife management area lands and freshwater fishing:

(a) a resident may purchase:

(i) an annual sportsman’s license for ~~fifty~~ fifty‑one dollars, two dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(ii) a three‑year sportsman’s license for one hundred fifty‑three dollars, six dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain.

(b) a resident who is at least sixteen years of age but who has not reached eighteen years of age may purchase an annual junior sportsman license for sixteen dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain.”

SECTION 5. Section 50‑9‑920(B)(12) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“~~(12)~~ ~~resident antler restriction individual antlered deer tag shall be used to administer the Coyote Management Program.~~”

SECTION 6. Section 50‑11‑2450 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑2450. Any person required to be licensed under Section ~~50‑11‑2420~~ 50‑9‑450 shall report to the department by April fifteenth of each year the number and type of ~~furbearing~~ fur‑bearing animals taken, sold, or shipped, together with the names and addresses of persons to whom sold or shipped using forms as the department may prescribe. Any person failing to report by April fifteenth of each year shall, on the second offense, be denied a license for the following fiscal year.”

SECTION 7. Section 50‑11‑2540 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑2540. (A) It is lawful to trap ~~fur‑bearing animals for commercial purposes~~ red and gray fox, raccoon, opossum, muskrat, mink, skunk, otter, bobcat, weasel, and beaver from December first of each year to March first of the succeeding year. It is unlawful to trap these fur‑bearing animals any other times unless authorized by the department. It is lawful to take ~~furbearing~~ these fur‑bearing animals by other lawful means during the general open hunting seasons established therefor.

(B) It is lawful to trap coyotes ~~from December first of each year to March first of the succeeding year. It is unlawful to trap coyotes at any other time unless authorized by the department. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 50‑11‑1080, it is lawful to take coyotes by other lawful means at any time during the~~ year round without a license or permit issued by the department.”

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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