COMMITTEE REPORT

February 9, 2011

**H. 3276**

Introduced by Reps. White, Owens and Bikas

S. Printed 2/9/11--H.

Read the first time January 12, 2011.

**THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL**

**RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3276) to ratify an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of South Carolina, 1895, relating to the Declaration of Rights under the State’s Constitution, by adding Section 25 so as, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

NELSON D. HARDWICK for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO RATIFY AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE STATE’S CONSTITUTION, BY ADDING SECTION 25 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT HUNTING AND FISHING ARE VALUABLE PARTS OF THE STATE’S HERITAGE, IMPORTANT FOR CONSERVATION, AND A PROTECTED MEANS OF MANAGING NONTHREATENED WILDLIFE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO HUNT, FISH, AND HARVEST WILDLIFE TRADITIONALLY PURSUED, SUBJECT TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS PROMOTING SOUND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AS PRESCRIBED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO SPECIFY THAT THIS SECTION MUST NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ABROGATE ANY PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS, EXISTING STATE LAWS OR REGULATIONS, OR THE STATE’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

SECTION 1. The amendment to Article I of the Constitution of South Carolina, 1895, prepared under the terms of Joint Resolution 3483 of 2009, having been submitted to the qualified electors at the General Election of 2010 as prescribed in Section 1, Article XVI of the Constitution of South Carolina, 1895, and a favorable vote having been received on the amendment, is ratified and declared to be a part of the constitution so that Article I is amended by adding Section 25:

“Section 25. The traditions of hunting and fishing are valuable parts of the state’s heritage, important for conservation, and a protected means of managing nonthreatened wildlife. The citizens of this State have the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife traditionally pursued, subject to laws and regulations promoting sound wildlife conservation and management as prescribed by the General Assembly. Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate any private property rights, existing state laws or regulations, or the state’s sovereignty over its natural resources.”

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