~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED AND AMENDED

April 26, 2011

**S. 741**

Introduced by Senator S. Martin

S. Printed 4/26/11--S.

Read the first time March 29, 2011.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50-11-710 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO NIGHT HUNTING PROHIBITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, TO ALLOW THE USE OF LASER SIGHTING AND OTHER DEVICES WHEN HUNTING COYOTES AT NIGHT DURING MAY AND JUNE PURSUANT TO AUTHORIZATION GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH ITS DEPREDATION PERMIT PROGRAM.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑11‑710(A)(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3)(a) coyotes and armadillos may be hunted at night with an artificial light that is carried on the hunter’s person ~~attached to a helmet or hat,~~ or part of a belt system worn by the hunter. Coyotes and armadillos may be hunted with a rifle or sidearm no larger than .22 caliber rimfire, a shotgun with a shot size no larger than a BB, or a sidearm of any caliber that has iron sites and a barrel length not exceeding nine inches. Except as provided in subitem (b), ~~Any~~ any weapon used to hunt coyotes or armadillos may not be equipped with a butt‑stock, scope, laser site, or light emitting or light enhancing device. It is unlawful to have in one’s possession any shot size larger than a BB while legally hunting coyotes and armadillos at night with a shotgun, and coyotes and armadillos may not be hunted at night from a vehicle, unless specifically permitted by the department. A person who violates this item is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

(b) The department may issue depredation permits for taking coyote, and may establish when and the methods that they may be taken, including taking them at night.”

SECTION 2. Section 50-11-2540(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(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~~ It is lawful to trap coyotes using a soft catch trap ~~by other lawful means~~ at any time during the year.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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