**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 4820**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Forrest, Hixon, Hayes, Chumley, Burns, Haddon, Magnuson, Chapman, McDaniel and Gibson

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Introduced in the House on January 10, 2024

Introduced in the Senate on March 27, 2024

Last Amended on March 26, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Turkey season

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/10/2024 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 37)

 1/10/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 37)

 1/17/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Gibson

 2/14/2024 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 3)

 2/27/2024 House Recommitted to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 43)

 3/7/2024 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 6)

 3/20/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 69)

 3/21/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 42)

 3/26/2024 House Amended (House Journal‑page 14)

 3/26/2024 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 14)

 3/26/2024 House Roll call Yeas-107 Nays-8 (House Journal‑page 15)

 3/27/2024 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 14)

 3/27/2024 Scrivener's error corrected

 3/27/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 7)

 3/27/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 7)

 5/1/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 14)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4820&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/10/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240110.docx)

[02/14/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240214.docx)

[03/07/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240307.docx)

[03/26/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240326.docx)

[03/27/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240327.docx)

[05/01/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4820_20240501.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Committee Report

May 01, 2024

H. 4820

Introduced by Reps. Forrest, Hixon, Hayes, Chumley, Burns, Haddon, Magnuson, Chapman, McDaniel and Gibson

S. Printed 05/01/24--S.

Read the first time March 27, 2024

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The committee on Senate Fish, Game and Forestry

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 4820) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 50-11-580, relating to the season for hunting and taking male wild turkeys, bag limits, taking female, etc., respectfully

Report:

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

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

SECTION 1. Section 50-11-580 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50-11-580. (A) The season for the hunting and taking a of legal male wild turkeyturkeys is April 1 through May 1:

 (1) in Game Zones 1 and 2, April 1 through May 10; and

 (2) in Game Zones 3 and 4, March 22 through April 30.

 (B) The season bag limit for legal male wild turkeys is threetwo statewide for residents and two statewide for nonresidents. The daily bag limit is one, provided that:

 (1) only one legal male wild turkey may be taken from April 1 through April 10 from within Game Zones 1 and 2; and

 (2) only one male wild turkey may be taken from March 22 through March 31 from within Game Zones 3 and 4.

 (C) It is unlawful for a person to take a female wild turkey unless authorized by the department pursuant to Section 50-11-500(3).

 (D) The department shall provide an annual report on wild turkey resources in South Carolina to the Chairman of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and the Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

SECTION 2. Section 50-11-500 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 (10) It is unlawful for a person to hunt, kill, or possess a male wild turkey with a beard less than six inches long and a tail fan that is not fully developed.

SECTION 3. Section 50-11-500 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 (11) It is unlawful for a person to hunt or stalk a wild turkey while holding or using for hunter concealment a tail fan, a partial or full decoy with a tail fan, or a tail fan mounted to a firearm.

SECTION 4. Section 50-11-590 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50-11-590. (A) The Saturday and Sunday preceding April 1 the start of a game zone turkey seasonand the Saturday and Sunday following May 1 is declared to be a “Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend” within the game zone for youth turkey hunters under eighteen years of age.

 (B) A license or tag requirement is waived for a youth turkey hunter during a Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend.

 (C) The total bag limit during Youth Turkey Hunting Weekendfor the two Youth Turkey Hunting Weekends combined is one legal male wild turkey for the weekend that shall count toward the season bag limit. A turkey harvest must be reported to the electronic harvest reporting system pursuant to the provisions of Section 50-11-546.

 (D) Youth turkey hunters who have not completed the hunter education program pursuant to Section 50-9-310, and who hunt during a Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend, must be accompanied by an adult who is at least twenty-one years of age. An adult may not harvest or attempt to harvest turkeys during a Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend but is permitted to call turkeys for a youth turkey hunter.

SECTION 5. Section 50-9-640 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50-9-640. (A) For the privilege of hunting wild turkey, in addition to the required hunting license and big game permit, a person must possess a wild turkey tag issued in the person's name. The fee for a:

 (1) resident is five twenty-five dollars for three two tags, one dollar of which may be retained by the license sales vendor; and

 (2) nonresident is one hundred twenty-five dollars for two tags, one dollar of which may be retained by the license sales vendor.

 (B) There is no cost for wild turkey tags for persons under the age of sixteen, lifetime licensees, and gratis licensees upon request to the department.

SECTION 6. This act is repealed on May 11, 2028, and the text amended by this act shall revert to the language contained in the South Carolina Code of Laws as of January 1, 2024.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

GEORGE E. “CHIP” CAMPSEN III for Committee.

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50-11-580, RELATING TO THE SEASON FOR HUNTING AND TAKING MALE WILD TURKEYS, BAG LIMITS, TAKING FEMALE WILD TURKEYS, AND ANNUAL REPORTING, SO AS TO ADJUST THE HUNTING AND LIMIT FOR TAKING MALE WILD TURKEYS; and to provide a SUNSET provision.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑11‑580 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50‑11‑580. (A) The season for hunting and taking a male wild turkey is April 10 through May 10.:

 (1) in Game Zones 1 and 2, April 1 through May 10; and

 (2) in Game Zones 3 and 4, March 22 through April 30.

 (B) The season bag limit for male wild turkeys is threetwo statewide for residents and two statewide for nonresidents. The daily bag limit is one, provided that:

 (1) only one male wild turkey may be taken from April 1 through April 10 from within Game Zones 1 and 2; and

 (2) only one male wild turkey may be taken from March 22 through March 31 from within Game Zones 3 and 4.

 (C) It is unlawful for a person to take a female wild turkey unless authorized by the department pursuant to Section 50‑11‑500(3).

 (D) The department shall provide an annual report on wild turkey resources in South Carolina to the Chairman of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and the Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

SECTION 2. Section 50-11-580(A) and (B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50-11-580. (A) The season for hunting and taking a male wild turkey isApril 10 through May 10.:

 (1) in Game Zones 1 and 2, April 1 through May 10; and

 (2) in Game Zones 3 and 4, March 22 through April 30.

 (B) The season bag limit for male wild turkeys is twothree statewide for residents and two statewide for nonresidents. The daily bag limit is one, provided that:

 (1) only one male wild turkey may be taken from April 1 through April 10 from within Game Zones 1 and 2; and

 (2) only one male wild turkey may be taken from March 22 through March 31 from within Game Zones 3 and 4.

SECTION 3. The amendments in this act of Sections 1 and 2 of Section 50-11-580 of the S.C. Code do not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under Sections 1 and 2 of Section 50-11-580. After the effective dates included in this act, the provisions of law referred to as amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the applicable effective dates of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the amended laws.

SECTION 4. Section 1 of this act takes effect January 1, 2025. Section 2 of this act takes effect January 1, 2030.

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