Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority: 50-11-1910 and 50-11-1920

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House Committee: Regulations, Administrative Procedures, AI and Cybersecurity Committee

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Status: Pending

Subject: Deer Processors and Donated Deer Processing Fee Recovery

History: 5330

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

- 10/25/2024 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/14/2025 Received President of the Senate & Speaker 01/18/2026

H 01/14/2025 Referred to Committee

S 01/14/2025 Referred to Committee

S 03/21/2025 Committee Requested Withdrawal

120 Day Period Tolled

- 03/21/2025 Withdrawn and Resubmitted 01/18/2026

S 03/25/2025 Resolution Introduced to Approve 487

H 04/24/2025 Committee Requested Withdrawal

120 Day Period Tolled

- 04/24/2025 Withdrawn and Resubmitted 01/18/2026

Resubmitted: April 24, 2025

Document No. 5330

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50‑11‑1910 and 50‑11‑1920

123‑56. Deer Processors and Donated Deer Processing Recovery Fee. (New)

**Synopsis:**

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to add Regulation 123‑56 “Deer Processors and Donated Deer Processing Recovery Fee”. The following new regulation is made in order to permit deer processors to process legally taken female (doe) deer donated by a hunter or deer depredation permittee and recover the fee of processing the deer from a person other than the individual who donated the deer. The regulation prescribes the necessary guidelines to implement SC Code of Laws 50-11-1910(B). It provides direction and conditions for deer processors to obtain a permit to process legally taken female (doe) deer donated by a hunter or deer depredation permittee and recover the fee of processing the deer from a person other than the individual who donated the deer. Additionally, the regulation prescribes directions for reporting fee recoveries taken under the permit.

The Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on September 27, 2024.

**Instructions:**

Print the regulation as shown below. All other items remain unchanged.

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

**Text:**

123-56. Deer Processors and Donated Deer Processing Recovery Fee.

1. A donated deer is defined as a legally taken female (doe) deer that is knowingly, intentionally, and unconditionally given or transferred to a permitted processor. It also includes any processed deer that has not been collected by the owner or his representative within the designated pickup timeframe, as specified by a posted notice at the business or communicated in writing to the customer.

2. To participate in the processing fee recovery program, a deer processor must submit an application provided by the department and be issued a permit annually. The permit is only valid for recovering the processing fee from female (doe) deer donated by a hunter or deer depredation permittee. A violation of a permit condition may result in permit revocation and penalties under the enabling code section.

3. Permitted processors are not obligated to accept donated deer and may choose the times when donated deer are accepted.

4. Permitted processors must submit to the department by January 31 annually the number of deer donated for which processing fees were recovered.

5. Permitted processors may not recover fees more than those normally charged for deer processing services.

6. Permitted processors must post or make available a list of fees for services that may include but are not limited to skinning/dressing, cutting/wrapping, upcharges for specialty cuts and specialty items like sausage, jerky, snack sticks, etc.

7. Processing fees may be recovered for whole processed deer or for portions of a processed deer provided that fees for portions or specialty products are prorated so they do not exceed what is normally charged for the item as part of processing a whole deer.

8. References to the program must describe it as “recovering” or “being reimbursed for” the processing fee in the same manner that would occur if the individual who harvested the deer paid the processing fee.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

The amendment of Regulations 123‑56 will result in opportunities for processors to recover the costs and fees associated with deer that are donated. This will generate additional State revenue through sales tax.

**Statement of Rationale:**

Rationale for the formulation of these regulations is based on over 70 years of experience by SCDNR in managing wildlife populations and establishing public hunting and recreation. SCDNR seeks to balance the objectives of resource protection and public use.