**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50-15-65 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALLIGATORS ON PRIVATE LAND, TO PROVIDE FOR A HUNTING SEASON OF ALLIGATORS ON PRIVATE LAND FROM SEPTEMBER FIRST THROUGH MAY THIRTY-FIRST.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50-15-65(B)(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3) A landowner or lessee of property on which alligators occur may apply to the department for a permit to participate in the Private Lands Alligator Program. On those private lands the season for hunting and taking alligators is from September first through ~~October fifteenth~~ May thirty-first. On those lands in the private lands program only, unsecured alligators may be taken by firearms, provided no alligator may be taken by use of rim fire weapons or shotguns. Unsecured alligators may be taken only by firearms from thirty minutes before sunrise until thirty minutes after sunset. A person who takes an alligator by use of firearms must make a reasonable effort to recover the carcass at the time of taking or for the next ensuing forty-eight hours. A person using a firearm to take an alligator must have a gaff or grappling hook or other similar device to immediately locate and recover the carcass.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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