**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2480, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO PERSONS EXEMPT FROM OBTAINING A FUR BUYER’S LICENSE, SO AS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO COYOTES; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2600, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO ARTICLE 13, CHAPTER 11, TITLE 50, SO AS TO REMOVE COYOTE FROM THE DEFINITION OF A FOX AND COYOTE HUNTING ENCLOSURE; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2605, RELATING TO THE PURCHASE AND RELEASE OF A COYOTE OR FOX, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE PURCHASE, SALE, TRANSFER, POSSESSION, OR RELEASE OF A COYOTE OR A COYOTE‑HYBRID; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2610, RELATING TO ENCLOSURE PERMITS, SO AS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO COYOTES; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2620, RELATING TO OBTAINING FOXES AND COYOTES TO STOCK ENCLOSURES, SO AS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO COYOTES; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2630, RELATING TO THE SALE OF LIVE FOXES OR COYOTES BY TRAPPERS, SO AS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO COYOTES; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑2640, RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF FOXES AND COYOTES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO BRING OR IMPORT A COYOTE‑HYBRID INTO THIS STATE AND TO REMOVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE A COYOTE IN THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑11‑2480(5) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(5) an owner or enclosure operator of a permitted fox ~~and coyote~~ hunting enclosure who purchases live foxes ~~or coyotes~~ for release into the enclosure.”

SECTION 2. Section 50‑11‑2600(1) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(1) ‘Fox ~~and coyote~~ hunting enclosure’ and ‘enclosure’ mean a structure that restricts the free movement of foxes ~~and coyotes~~ into or out of an area.”

SECTION 3. Section 50‑11‑2605 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑2605. (A) It is unlawful to buy, sell, transfer, possess, or release a live ~~coyote, coyote‑hybrid, or~~ fox within the State except as permitted by the department pursuant to this title.

(B) It is unlawful to buy, sell, transfer, possess, or release a live coyote or coyote‑hybrid within the State except as permitted by the department for scientific, exhibition, or educational purposes.”

SECTION 4. Section 50‑11‑2610(A) and (C) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) The department is authorized to issue fox ~~and coyote~~ hunting enclosure permits to an enclosure operator pursuant to the terms and provisions of this article. There is no charge for the permit. For purposes of this article a permit year is from May sixteenth of one year to May fifteenth of the next year.

(C) It is unlawful to operate or hunt fox ~~or coyote~~ within a fox ~~or coyote~~ hunting enclosure that is not permitted pursuant to the provisions of this article.”

SECTION 5. Section 50‑11‑2620 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑2620. (A) Foxes ~~and coyotes~~ for stocking hunting enclosures may be obtained only from a South Carolina licensed trapper and must be lawfully taken within this State during the regular trapping season.

(B) Foxes ~~and coyotes~~ for stocking hunting enclosures may be obtained only by the owner or enclosure operator of a permitted enclosure. Foxes ~~and coyotes~~ may be released only into an enclosure that is permitted by this ~~title~~ article by the owner or enclosure operator of the permitted enclosure.

(C) The owner and enclosure operator shall record all fox ~~and coyote~~ purchases, transfers, and releases into the hunting enclosures daily on a form provided by the department. These forms must be retained and made available for reasonable inquiry by department employees. No later than April fifteenth the owner and enclosure operator shall furnish the department all of the daily register forms for the permit period. It is unlawful for a person to fail to report to the department as required by this section.”

SECTION 6. Section 50‑11‑2630(A) and (B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑2630. (A) A commercial fur license permits a trapper to possess, sell, barter, or exchange live foxes ~~or coyotes~~ taken by the trapper. The possession, sale, barter, or exchange is lawful only during the trapping season and for thirty days following the closing date of the trapping season.

(B) Live foxes ~~or coyotes~~ may be sold or transferred only to an owner or enclosure operator of a permitted enclosure by the trapper who took the animal.”

SECTION 7. Section 50‑11‑2640(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) It is unlawful to bring, import, or cause to have imported a live coyote, coyote‑hybrid, or fox into this State, except those brought into the State and kept in captivity by permit from the department for exhibition purposes. ~~It is unlawful to release a coyote in this State except as authorized by this title~~.”

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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