INTRODUCED

March 13, 2019

**S. 653**

Introduced by Senators McElveen and Martin

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Read the first time March 13, 2019.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 11, TITLE 50 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO BIG GAME, BY ADDING SECTION 50-11-546, TO PROVIDE FOR AN ELECTRONIC HARVEST REPORTING SYSTEM, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING THE HARVEST OF A WILD TURKEY, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 11, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50-11-546. (A) In order to document the harvest of wild turkeys and to assist with the enforcement of seasons, methods of harvest, and bag limits, the department shall implement an electronic harvest reporting system.

(B) Any individual who harvests a wild turkey must report the harvest to the electronic harvest reporting system as prescribed by the department. The harvest report must be submitted by midnight of the day the wild turkey is taken and before it is skinned or dismembered.

(C) Upon completion of the harvest reporting process, a harvest‑report confirmation number will be provided by the department. The hunter must record the harvest‑report confirmation number before the carcass leaves the hunter’s possession. The harvest‑report confirmation number must remain with the carcass until final processing.

(D) The department shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section, including the methods of electronic reporting, contents of the report, and recording and maintenance of the harvest‑report confirmation number.

(E) There shall be no cost to the hunter for reporting a harvest, and the department may exempt the reporting requirement for individuals who harvest wild turkeys under specific conditions or department programs.

(F) It is unlawful to provide false information while reporting a harvest or recording a harvest‑report confirmation number.

(G) A person who violates this section or provisions established by the department for electronic harvest reporting is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.”

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

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