



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4875 Introduced on January 17, 2024
Author: Ott
Subject: Deer Processors
Requestor: House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Daigle
Impact Date: January 30, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows DNR to create regulations to allow deer processors to process legally taken doe that has been donated by a hunter or crop depredation permittee or designee, and to recover those costs of processing the deer from a person other than the donator. This bill also increases the fines for illegally buying or selling any live deer, the venison from any deer, any whitetail deer gametes, or antler velvet, among other things. The fine for a first offense increases by \$200, and the second offense fine increases by up to \$500.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on DNR because any additional responsibilities charged to the department due to this bill can be managed within existing staff and resources.

This bill may increase local revenues from the increase in fines for an individual who is convicted of illegally buying or selling any live deer, the venison from any deer, any whitetail deer gametes, or antler velvet, among other things. Per Section 50-9-910, any revenue from these fines is credited to the County Game and Fish Fund subaccount.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 17, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill allows DNR to create regulations to permit deer processors to process legally taken doe that has been donated by a hunter or crop depredation permittee or designee, and to recover those costs of processing the deer from a person other than the donator. This bill also sets the first and second offense fines for an individual who illegally buys or sells, offers for sale, barter, or has in their possession any live deer, venison, whitetail deer gametes or antler velvet, or any whitetail deer antlers attached to the pedicel. First time offenders are subject to a fine of \$300 to \$500 or imprisonment of up to thirty days. Second time offenders who are convicted within three years of the first offense conviction are subject to a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 or imprisonment of up to thirty days.

It is currently illegal to buy or sell, offer for sale, barter, or have in possession for sale any live deer, the venison of any deer, any whitetail deer gametes or antler velvet, or any whitetail deer

antlers attached to the pedicel. Currently, violations of this requirement carry a fine of \$100 to \$300 or imprisonment for up to thirty days for a first offense; \$300 to \$500 or imprisonment for up to thirty days for a second offense within three years of the convicted first offense; and \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to sixty days for a third offense within three years of the convicted first offense. This bill increases the first offense fine by \$200 and the second offense fine by up to \$500.

Department of Natural Resources. This bill will have no expenditure impact on DNR. DNR indicates that any additional responsibilities charged to the department due to this bill can be managed within the existing staff and resources.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill may increase local revenues from the increase in fines for an individual who is convicted of illegally buying, selling, offering for sale, bartering, or having in their possession for sale any live deer, the venison of any deer, whitetail deer gametes or antler velvet or any whitetail deer antlers attached to the pedicel. Per Section 50-9-910, any revenue from these fines is credited to the County Game and Fish Fund subaccount.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director