

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 283

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON.

0974H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 270.170, 270.260, and 270.400, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to feral hogs, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 270.170, 270.260, and 270.400, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 270.170, 270.260, and 270.400, to read as follows:

270.170. 1. If any swine or sheep shall be found running at large, contrary to the provisions of this chapter, it shall be lawful for any person on whose premises said swine or sheep shall be found to restrain the same forthwith, and give the owner, if known, notice in writing that such person has restrained said swine or sheep, and the amount of damages such person claims in the premises, and requiring the owner to take said swine or sheep away and pay such damages; and such owner shall pay such person a reasonable sum for taking up, feeding and caring for the same, and the actual damages done by said swine or sheep. If such owner fails to comply with the provisions of this section within three days after receiving such notice, or if the owner of such swine or sheep be unknown, such swine or sheep shall be disposed of in the manner provided for in section 270.180.

2. Any swine not conspicuously identified by ear tags or other forms of identification that were born in the wild or that lived outside of captivity for a sufficient length of time to be considered wild by nature by hiding from humans or being nocturnal shall be considered feral hogs. ~~[Any person may take or kill such feral hogs on such person's own property]~~ **A landowner, landowner's agent, or any person with written permission from a landowner may take or kill such feral hogs on such landowner's own property.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

270.260. 1. Any person who recklessly or knowingly releases any swine to live in a wild or feral state upon any public land or private land not completely enclosed by a fence capable of containing such animals is guilty of a class A misdemeanor **and is punishable upon conviction by a fine of five thousand dollars for the first offense, and a fine of ten thousand dollars for the second and any subsequent offense. Upon conviction for a first offense, such person shall also forfeit any hunting, fishing, or trapping permits currently held and shall not have the privilege of obtaining any hunting, fishing, or trapping permits from the department of conservation until the expiration of three years from conviction of such offense. Upon conviction of a second offense, such person shall permanently forfeit any hunting, fishing, or trapping permits currently held and shall not have the privilege of obtaining any subsequent hunting, fishing, or trapping permits from the department of conservation.** Each swine so released shall be a separate offense.

2. Every person who has previously been found guilty of violating the provisions of this section, committed on two separate occasions where such offense occurred within ten years of the date of the occurrence of the present offense and who subsequently is found guilty of violating this section shall be guilty of a class E felony.

3. Nothing in this section shall be construed to criminalize the accidental escape of domestic swine.

4. **Any person who is assessed an administrative penalty under this section shall be notified in writing of the right to appeal. Such person may request a hearing before the director of the department of agriculture. Such request shall be made in writing no later than thirty days after the date on which the person was notified of the violation.**

270.400. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "feral hog" means any hog, including Russian and European wild boar, that is not conspicuously identified by ear tags or other forms of identification and is roaming freely upon public or private lands without the landowner's permission.

2. A person may kill a feral hog roaming freely upon such person's land and shall not be liable to the owner of the hog for the loss of the hog.

3. Any person may take or kill a feral hog on public land or private land with the consent of the landowner; except that, during the firearms deer and turkey hunting season the regulations of the Missouri wildlife code shall apply. Such person shall not be liable to the owner of the hog for the loss of such hog.

4. No person except a landowner ~~[or such]~~, landowner's agent, **or any person with written permission from a landowner** on such landowner's property shall take, attempt to take, or kill a feral hog with the use of an artificial light **outside of the firearms deer and turkey hunting season.**

15 5. The director of the department of agriculture shall promulgate rules for fencing and
16 health standards for Russian and European wild boar and wild-caught swine held alive on private
17 land. Any person holding Russian or European wild boar or wild-caught swine on private land
18 shall annually submit an application to the department for a permit. Any applicant that
19 successfully meets the requirements under this section as determined by the department and pays
20 an application fee shall be issued a permit.

21 6. Russian and European wild boar and wild-caught swine may move only from a farm
22 to a farm or directly to slaughter or to a slaughter-only market. The department shall promulgate
23 rules for exemption permits and a fee structure to offset the actual and necessary costs incurred
24 to enforce the provisions of this section.

25 7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Animal Health Fund", which
26 shall consist of all fees and administrative penalties collected by the department of agriculture
27 under this section and section 270.260. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In
28 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements.
29 Upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used for the administration of this section and
30 section 270.260.

31 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
32 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
33 revenue fund.

34 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds
35 are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

36 8. ~~[Any person who violates subsection 2 of section 270.260 may, in addition to the~~
37 ~~penalty imposed under section 270.260, be assessed an administrative penalty of up to one~~
38 ~~thousand dollars per violation. Any person who is assessed an administrative penalty under this~~
39 ~~section shall be notified in writing of the right to appeal. Such person may request a hearing~~
40 ~~before the director of the department of agriculture. Such request shall be made in writing no~~
41 ~~later than thirty days after the date on which the person was notified of the violation of section~~
42 ~~270.260.]~~

43 **9.] The director of the department of agriculture may promulgate rules for the**
44 **enforcement of this section.** Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
45 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only
46 if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
47 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
48 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove
49 and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority
50 and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2010, shall be invalid and void.

51 ~~[10.]~~ **9.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to domestic swine.

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