

CHAPTER 179**PROVIDING WORK-RELATED EMPLOYEE INFORMATION***S.F. 280*

AN ACT providing immunity from civil liability for an employer or employer's representative who acts reasonably in providing work-related information about a current or former employee of the employer.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 91B.2 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS ABOUT CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEES — IMMUNITY.

1. An employer or an employer's representative who, upon request by or authorization of a current or former employee or upon request made by a person who in good faith is believed to be a representative of a prospective employer of a current or former employee, provides work-related information about a current or former employee, is immune from civil liability unless the employer or the employer's representative acted unreasonably in providing the work-related information.

2. For purposes of this section, an employer acts unreasonably if any of the following are present:

- a. The work-related information violates a civil right of the current or former employee.
- b. The work-related information knowingly is provided to a person who has no legitimate and common interest in receiving the work-related information.
- c. The work-related information is not relevant to the inquiry being made, is provided with malice, or is provided with no good faith belief that it is true.

3. For purposes of this section, "employer" and "employee" are defined as provided in section 91A.2.

Approved May 26, 1997

CHAPTER 180**WILD ANIMAL DEPREDATION PERMITS AND RELATED MATTERS***S.F. 362*

AN ACT establishing a wild animal depredation unit within the department of natural resources, allowing the discharge of firearms in state parks for certain purposes, providing for the issuance of additional free deer hunting licenses, subjecting violators to an existing penalty, and providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 461A.42, subsection 1, Code 1997, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1. The use of firearms, explosives, and weapons of all kinds by a person is prohibited in all state parks and preserves except under the following conditions:

- a. A firearm or other weapon authorized for hunting may be used in preserves or parts of preserves designated by the state advisory board on preserves at the request of the commission.

b. A person may use a bow and arrow with an attached bow fishing reel and ninety-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish as provided by rule of the commission.

c. The commission may establish, by rule, the state parks or parts of state parks where firearms may be discharged during special events, festivals and education programs, or a special hunt to control animal populations. The rules governing special hunts to control animal populations shall be applied separately to each designated state park.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 481C.1 WILD ANIMAL DEPREDATION UNIT.

A wild animal depredation unit is established within the fish and wildlife division of the department of natural resources. The unit shall be comprised of two wild animal depredation biologists. The biologists shall serve under the director of the department of natural resources.

Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 481C.2 DUTIES.

The director of the department of natural resources shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the United States department of agriculture, animal damage control division. The unit shall serve and act as the liaison to the department for the producers in the state who suffer crop and nursery damage due to wild animals. The department shall issue depredation permits as necessary to reduce crop and nursery damage due to wild animals. The criteria for issuing depredation permits shall be established in administrative rules in consultation with the farmer advisory committee created in section 481A.10A.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 481C.3 FUNDING.

Notwithstanding section 483A.30, the revenue from nonresident deer and wild turkey hunting licenses shall first be used to pay the salaries, support, and maintenance of the wild animal depredation unit established pursuant to section 481C.1. The remaining revenue from nonresident deer and wild turkey hunting licenses shall be used to meet the requirements of section 483A.30.

Sec. 5. REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1998. The department of natural resources shall report, during January 1998, to the chairpersons and ranking members of the house committee on natural resources and the senate committee on natural resources and environment the number of applications received for depredation permits and the number of depredation permits issued during the preceding calendar year pursuant to section 481C.2.

Sec. 6. Section 483A.24, subsection 2, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. d. If the commission establishes a deer hunting season to occur in the first quarter of a calendar year that is separate from a deer hunting season that continues from the last quarter of the preceding calendar year, each owner and each tenant of a farm unit located within a zone where a deer hunting season is established, upon application, shall be issued a free deer hunting license for each of the two calendar quarters. Each license is valid only for hunting on the farm unit of the owner and tenant.

Sec. 7. Section 483A.30, Code 1997, is repealed effective December 31, 1999.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Approved May 26, 1997