

# House File 2523 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2052)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to deer depredation management, providing for a  
2 deer study advisory committee, and providing an effective  
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

5 TLSB 5320HV 82

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1 1 Section 1. Section 481A.10A, Code 2007, is amended to read  
1 2 as follows:

1 3 481A.10A FARMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

1 4 The director shall establish a farmer advisory committee

1 5 for the purpose of providing information to the department

1 6 regarding crop and tree damage caused by deer, wild turkey,

1 7 and other predators. Members of the committee shall include a

1 8 representative designated by each of the following

1 9 organizations: the Iowa corn growers association, the Iowa

1 10 farm bureau federation, the Iowa farmers union, the Iowa state

1 11 horticulture society, the Iowa Christmas tree growers

1 12 association, the department of agriculture and land

1 13 stewardship, and the Iowa state university agricultural

1 14 extension service. The committee shall meet with a

1 15 representative of the department of natural resources on a

1 16 semiannual basis. The committee shall serve without

1 17 compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

1 18 Sec. 2. Section 481C.2, Code 2007, is amended to read as

1 19 follows:

1 20 481C.2 DUTIES.

1 21 1. The director of the department of natural resources

1 22 shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the United

1 23 States department of agriculture, animal damage control

1 24 division. The wild animal depredation unit shall serve and

1 25 act as the liaison to the department for the producers in the

1 26 state who suffer crop ~~and~~ horticultural product, tree, or

1 27 nursery damage due to wild animals.

1 28 2. The department shall issue depredation permits to any

1 29 landowner who incurs crop ~~and~~ horticultural product, tree, or

1 30 nursery damage of one thousand dollars or more due to wild

1 31 animals.

1 32 3. The criteria for issuing depredation licenses and

1 33 permits shall be established in administrative rules in

1 34 consultation with the farmer advisory committee created in

1 35 section 481A.10A. The administrative rules adopted pursuant

2 1 to this section shall not require a producer to erect or

2 2 maintain fencing at a cost exceeding one thousand dollars as a

2 3 requisite for receiving a depredation license or permit or for

2 4 participation in a depredation plan.

2 5 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 481C.2A DEER DEPREDATION MANAGEMENT

2 6 PROGRAM == LICENSES AND PERMITS.

2 7 1. Deer depredation licenses shall be available for

2 8 issuance as follows:

2 9 a. Deer depredation licenses shall be available for

2 10 issuance to resident hunters.

2 11 b. Depredation licenses issued pursuant to this subsection

2 12 shall be valid to harvest antlerless deer only. Depredation

2 13 licenses that are issued to a landowner and family members as

2 14 defined in section 483A.24 shall be in addition to the number

2 15 of free licenses that are available for issuance to such

2 16 persons under section 483A.24. A landowner or a family member

2 17 may obtain one free depredation license for each deer hunting  
2 18 season that is established by the commission. Deer may be  
2 19 harvested with a rifle pursuant to a depredation license in  
2 20 any area and in any season where the commission authorizes the  
2 21 use of rifles.

2 22 c. Licenses issued pursuant to this subsection may be  
2 23 issued at any time to a resident hunter who has permission to  
2 24 hunt on the land for which the license is valid pursuant to  
2 25 this subsection.

2 26 d. A producer who enters into a depredation agreement with  
2 27 the department of natural resources shall be issued a set of  
2 28 authorization numbers. Each authorization number authorizes a  
2 29 resident hunter to obtain a depredation license that is valid  
2 30 only for taking antlerless deer on the land designated in the  
2 31 producer's depredation plan. A producer may transfer an  
2 32 authorization number issued to that producer to a resident  
2 33 hunter who has permission to hunt on the land for which the  
2 34 authorization number is valid. An authorization number shall  
2 35 be valid to obtain a depredation license in any season. The  
3 1 provisions of this paragraph shall be implemented by August  
3 2 15, 2008. A transferee who receives an authorization number  
3 3 pursuant to this paragraph "d" shall be otherwise qualified to  
3 4 hunt deer in this state, have a hunting license, pay the  
3 5 wildlife habitat fee, and pay the one dollar fee for the  
3 6 purpose of the deer herd population management program.

3 7 2. Deer shooting permits shall be available for issuance  
3 8 as follows:

3 9 a. Deer shooting permits shall be available for issuance  
3 10 to landowners who incur crop, horticultural product, tree, or  
3 11 nursery damage as provided in section 481C.2 and shall be  
3 12 available for issuance for use on areas where public safety  
3 13 may be an issue.

3 14 b. Deer shooting permits issued pursuant to this  
3 15 subsection shall be valid and may be used outside of  
3 16 established deer hunting seasons.

3 17 3. Notwithstanding section 481C.2, subsection 3, a  
3 18 producer shall not be required to erect or maintain fencing as  
3 19 a requisite for receiving a deer depredation permit or for  
3 20 participation in a deer depredation plan pursuant to this  
3 21 section.

3 22 4. A person who harvests a deer with a deer depredation  
3 23 license or a deer shooting permit issued pursuant to this  
3 24 section shall utilize the deer harvest reporting system set  
3 25 forth in section 483A.8A and shall not be subject to different  
3 26 disposal or reporting requirements than are applicable to the  
3 27 harvest of deer pursuant to other deer hunting licenses except  
3 28 that any antlers on a deer taken pursuant to a shooting permit  
3 29 shall be delivered to the local conservation officer for  
3 30 disposal.

3 31 5. The department shall administer and enforce the  
3 32 administrative rules concerning deer depredation, including  
3 33 issuance of deer depredation licenses and deer shooting  
3 34 permits, that are established by the commission.

3 35 6. The department shall make educational materials that  
4 1 explain the deer depredation management program available to  
4 2 the general public, and available specifically to farmers and  
4 3 farm and commodity organizations, in both electronic and  
4 4 brochure formats by June 30, 2008.

4 5 7. The department shall conduct outreach programs for  
4 6 farmers and farm and commodity organizations that explain the  
4 7 deer depredation management program. The department shall  
4 8 develop, by rule, a master hunter program and maintain a list  
4 9 of master hunters who are available to assist producers in the  
4 10 deer depredation management program by increasing the harvest  
4 11 of antlerless deer on the producer's property.

4 12 Sec. 4. DEER STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. A deer study  
4 13 advisory committee is established for the purpose of studying  
4 14 the best way to maintain a sustainable, socially acceptable  
4 15 deer population in the state while maximizing and balancing  
4 16 the economic value of deer hunting to Iowa's economy with the  
4 17 needs of the agricultural industry and public safety concerns.

4 18 1. The advisory committee shall be composed of the  
4 19 following members:

4 20 a. One representative from each of the following  
4 21 organizations or entities, to be appointed by the governor:

- 4 22 (1) Iowa association of county conservation boards.
- 4 23 (2) Iowa farm bureau federation.
- 4 24 (3) Iowa farmers union.
- 4 25 (4) Iowa conservation alliance.
- 4 26 (5) Iowa bow hunters association.
- 4 27 (6) Whitetails unlimited.

4 28 (7) Iowa hospitality association.  
4 29 (8) Iowa restaurant association.  
4 30 (9) Iowa meat processors association.  
4 31 (10) Iowa league of cities.  
4 32 (11) The department of transportation.  
4 33 (12) Iowa woodland owners association.  
4 34 (13) Federation of Iowa insurers.  
4 35 (14) Iowa realtors association.  
5 1 (15) Iowa chapter of the sierra club.  
5 2 (16) Iowa environmental council.  
5 3 b. The director of the department of natural resources or  
5 4 a designee.  
5 5 c. The secretary of agriculture or a designee.  
5 6 d. The director of the department of economic development  
5 7 or a designee.  
5 8 e. Two members of the senate, one of whom is appointed by  
5 9 the majority leader of the senate and one of whom is appointed  
5 10 by the minority leader of the senate.  
5 11 f. Two members of the house of representatives, one of  
5 12 whom is appointed by the speaker of the house of  
5 13 representatives and one of whom is appointed by the minority  
5 14 leader of the house of representatives.  
5 15 2. The director of the department of natural resources or  
5 16 the director's designee shall serve as the chairperson of the  
5 17 advisory committee.  
5 18 3. Legislative members of the committee are eligible for  
5 19 per diem and reimbursement of actual expenses as provided in  
5 20 section 2.10.  
5 21 4. The committee shall review, analyze, and make  
5 22 recommendations on issues relating to the state's deer  
5 23 population including but not limited to the following:  
5 24 a. The current status of Iowa's deer population, harvest,  
5 25 and population management programs.  
5 26 b. The economic impact and value of Iowa's deer  
5 27 population.  
5 28 c. The cost of damage to crops caused by deer.  
5 29 d. The number and cost of motor vehicle accidents caused  
5 30 by deer.  
5 31 e. A review of the deer management challenges and programs  
5 32 of other midwestern states.  
5 33 f. An assessment of public opinion concerning the number  
5 34 of deer, and the impact and value of Iowa's deer population.  
5 35 5. The advisory committee shall complete its deliberations  
6 1 in December 2008 and submit a final report to the governor and  
6 2 the general assembly summarizing the committee's activities,  
6 3 analyzing the issues studied, and including any other  
6 4 information or recommendations that the committee deems  
6 5 relevant and necessary by January 10, 2009.  
6 6 Sec. 5. Section 483A.24C, Code 2007, is repealed.  
6 7 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of  
6 8 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

#### 6 9 EXPLANATION

6 10 This bill relates to the deer depredation management  
6 11 program and provides for a deer study advisory committee.  
6 12 The bill specifies that the farmer advisory committee that  
6 13 provides information to the department of natural resources  
6 14 (DNR) regarding crop and tree damage caused by deer, wild  
6 15 turkey, and other predators must include representatives of  
6 16 specified organizations.  
6 17 The bill expands the scope of the wild animal depredation  
6 18 unit of the DNR to include horticultural product and tree  
6 19 damage as well as crop and nursery damage. The bill  
6 20 establishes the deer depredation management program and  
6 21 requires the DNR to issue deer depredation licenses and  
6 22 shooting permits.  
6 23 Deer depredation licenses are available for issuance to  
6 24 resident hunters to shoot antlerless deer on the land  
6 25 designated in the producer's depredation plan during any  
6 26 established deer hunting season. Such licenses are in  
6 27 addition to free licenses that are available to landowners and  
6 28 family members under Code section 483A.24. A producer who  
6 29 enters into a depredation agreement with the DNR will be  
6 30 issued a set of authorization numbers. Each number authorizes  
6 31 a resident hunter to obtain one depredation license. A  
6 32 producer may transfer such an authorization number to any  
6 33 resident hunter who is otherwise qualified to hunt, has a  
6 34 hunting license, and has paid the wildlife habitat fee and the  
6 35 deer herd population management program fee. This program  
7 1 must be implemented by August 15, 2008.  
7 2 The bill also requires the DNR to issue deer shooting  
7 3 permits to landowners who incur crop, horticultural product,

7 4 tree, or nursery damage or for use on areas where public  
7 5 safety may be an issue. Deer shooting permits are valid for  
7 6 use outside of established deer hunting seasons to harvest  
7 7 antlerless or any sex deer.

7 8 Deer harvested pursuant to deer depredation licenses or  
7 9 deer shooting permits must be reported using the harvest  
7 10 reporting system set forth in Code section 483A.8A and shall  
7 11 not be subject to different disposal or reporting requirements  
7 12 than are applicable to the harvest of deer pursuant to other  
7 13 deer hunting licenses except that antlers on a deer taken with  
7 14 a shooting permit must be delivered to the local conservation  
7 15 officer for disposal.

7 16 The DNR is required to make educational materials available  
7 17 explaining the deer depredation management program to the  
7 18 general public and specifically to farmers and farm and  
7 19 commodity organizations, in both electronic and brochure  
7 20 formats by June 30, 2008. The DNR is required to conduct  
7 21 outreach programs for farmers and farm and commodity  
7 22 organizations to explain the depredation program. The DNR is  
7 23 also required to develop a master hunter program and maintain  
7 24 a list of master hunters who are available to assist producers  
7 25 in the deer depredation management program by increasing the  
7 26 harvest of antlerless deer on the producer's property.

7 27 The bill establishes a deer study advisory committee to  
7 28 study the best way to maintain a sustainable, socially  
7 29 acceptable deer population in the state while maximizing and  
7 30 balancing the economic value of deer hunting to Iowa's economy  
7 31 with the needs of the agricultural industry and public safety  
7 32 concerns. The bill specifies that the committee shall be  
7 33 composed of representatives from specified organizations and  
7 34 entities, the director of the DNR or a designee, the secretary  
7 35 of agriculture or a designee, and six legislators. The  
8 1 committee is required to complete its deliberations in  
8 2 December 2008 and submit a final report to the governor and  
8 3 the general assembly summarizing the committee's activities,  
8 4 analyzing the issues studied, and include any other  
8 5 information or recommendations by January 10, 2009.

8 6 The bill is effective upon enactment.

8 7 LSB 5320HV 82  
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