

Senate File 464 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 464
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 427)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to deer population management, and including
2 effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.130, subsection 1, paragraph h,
2 Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3 ~~h. For each deer, except as provided in paragraph "g", and~~
4 ~~for~~ each swan or crane, one thousand five hundred dollars.

5 Sec. 2. Section 481C.2A, subsection 5, Code 2021, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 5. The department shall administer and enforce the
8 administrative rules concerning deer depredation, including
9 issuance of deer depredation licenses and deer shooting
10 permits, that are established by the commission and subject to
11 the following conditions:

12 a. Except for a free license issued under subsection 1,
13 paragraph "b", the department shall require a fee of two dollars
14 for a license or permit issued pursuant to this section.

15 b. In addition to other times the department finds
16 necessary, the department shall allow licenses and permits
17 issued pursuant to this section to be used in the months of
18 September, October, November, and December.

19 Sec. 3. Section 483A.8, Code 2021, is amended by adding the
20 following new subsection:

21 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. There shall be a January antlerless
22 deer only hunting season in a county whenever that county
23 has unsold antlerless deer licenses available in its county
24 quota as set by the commission by rule. The commission shall
25 establish the season dates. Licenses shall be available for
26 sale beginning the day after the close of the late muzzleloader
27 season until either the county quota allotment has been sold or
28 until the end of the season, whichever occurs first. A January
29 antlerless deer only license issued under this subsection is
30 valid only in the county identified on the license. A rifle
31 with a barrel length of at least sixteen inches and firing
32 centerfire ammunition propelling an expanding-type bullet with
33 a maximum diameter of no less than two hundred twenty-three
34 thousandths of one inch and no larger than five hundred
35 thousandths of one inch and with a published or calculated

1 muzzle energy of five hundred foot pounds or higher is the
2 approved method of take for this season.

3 Sec. 4. DEER POPULATION STUDY. The department of natural
4 resources shall conduct a study to determine the estimated
5 deer population in each county in this state, which shall be
6 supported by historical records dating back to 1970. The
7 department shall review and provide scientific data relating
8 to the environmental impact of deer populations, including the
9 impact to crops and trees. The department shall also review
10 the spread of disease in deer and other wildlife populations.
11 Additionally, the report shall include information on property
12 loss, medical costs, and fatalities due to deer-vehicle
13 accidents. In conducting the study, the department shall work
14 with relevant representatives from the Iowa state university
15 of science and technology, the department of transportation,
16 and the insurance division of the department of commerce.
17 Expenses for conducting the study shall be paid from the fish
18 and wildlife protection fund established in section 456A.17
19 and such payments are considered a proper use of the funds for
20 purposes of section 456A.27 and Article VII, section 9, of the
21 Constitution of the State of Iowa. The department shall submit
22 a report summarizing the results of the study to the general
23 assembly by October 1, 2023.

24 Sec. 5. REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS FOR UNLAWFULLY TAKEN
25 ANTLERLESS DEER — REFUNDS. A person convicted on or after
26 July 1, 2020, for unlawfully selling, taking, catching,
27 killing, injuring, destroying, or having in possession an
28 antlerless deer who has paid the reimbursement amount set forth
29 in section 481A.130, subsection 1, paragraph "h", shall be
30 refunded the difference between the person's payment and the
31 reimbursement amount set forth in section 481A.130, subsection
32 1, paragraph "c".

33 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of
34 immediate importance, take effect upon enactment:

35 1. The section of this Act amending section 481A.130.

1 In administering and enforcing administrative rules relating
2 to deer depredation, the bill requires the department of
3 natural resources (DNR) to require payment of a \$2 fee for the
4 issuance of a deer depredation license or permit. The bill
5 also requires DNR to allow deer depredation tags to be filled
6 in the months of September, October, November, and December, in
7 addition to any other time that DNR finds necessary.

8 Under current law, deer hunting licenses are allocated by
9 zones and counties. The bill establishes a January antlerless
10 deer hunting season in a county whenever that county has unsold
11 antlerless deer hunting licenses available in its county quota
12 set by the natural resource commission. The commission shall
13 establish the season dates. The bill sets the time when a
14 person may purchase a license for the January season and states
15 that the license is valid only in the county identified on the
16 license. The bill makes a rifle with a barrel length of at
17 least 16 inches and firing centerfire ammunition propelling
18 an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of no less
19 than 0.233 inches and no larger than 0.500 inches and with a
20 published or calculated muzzle energy of 500 foot pounds or
21 higher the approved method of take for the January antlerless
22 deer hunting season.

23 The bill requires DNR to conduct a study to determine
24 the estimated deer population in each county in this state.
25 The bill requires DNR to review and provide scientific data
26 relating to the environmental impact of deer populations,
27 including the impact to crops and trees, review information
28 relating to the spread of disease in deer and other wildlife
29 populations, and include information on property loss, medical
30 costs, and fatalities due to deer-vehicle accidents. The bill
31 requires DNR to work with relevant representatives from the
32 Iowa state university of science and technology, the department
33 of transportation, and the insurance division of the department
34 of commerce. Expenses for conducting the study shall be paid
35 from the fish and wildlife protection fund. The bill requires

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1 DNR to submit a report to the general assembly by October 1,
2 2023.