

**House File 2038 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2038  
BY COLLINS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to deer depredation.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 481C.2, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2026,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 1. The director of the department of natural resources shall  
4 enter into a memorandum of agreement with the United States  
5 department of agriculture, animal damage control division. The  
6 wild animal depredation unit shall serve and act as the liaison  
7 to the department for the producers in the state who suffer ~~crop,~~  
8 ~~horticultural product, tree, or nursery damage~~ an economic loss  
9 to agriculture, horticulture, or silviculture operations due to  
10 wild animals.

11 2. The department shall issue depredation permits and deer  
12 shooting permits to any landowner or tenant, as defined under  
13 section 483A.24, subsection 2, who incurs crop, horticultural  
14 product, tree, or nursery damage suffers an economic loss of  
15 one thousand dollars or more to agriculture, horticulture, or  
16 silviculture operations due to wild animals. The department  
17 shall allow any conservation officer to issue permits pursuant to  
18 this chapter.

19 Sec. 2. Section 481C.2A, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
20 2026, is amended to read as follows:

21 a. Deer shooting permits shall be available for issuance  
22 to landowners or tenants, as defined under section 483A.24,  
23 subsection 2, who incur crop, horticultural product, tree,  
24 or nursery damage suffer an economic loss to agriculture,  
25 horticulture, or silviculture operations as provided in section  
26 481C.2 and shall be available for issuance for use on areas where  
27 public safety may be an issue.

28 Sec. 3. Section 481C.2A, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
29 following new subsection:

30 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
31 law to the contrary, any deer taken with a depredation license  
32 or shooting permit issued under this chapter by the person to  
33 whom the license or permit was issued may be disposed of by  
34 composting.

35

EXPLANATION

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3       This bill relates to deer depredation. Under current law,  
4 eligibility for the wild animal depredation program requires a  
5 producer to have suffered "crop, horticultural product, tree,  
6 or nursery damage due to wild animals". The bill changes this  
7 eligibility requirement to cover a producer who has suffered  
8 "economic loss to agriculture, horticulture, or silviculture  
9 operations due to wild animals".

10       The bill authorizes any conservation officer to issue  
11 depredation permits or deer shooting permits (permits). In  
12 addition to landowners as currently allowed, the bill allows  
13 tenants to receive permits.

14       The bill authorizes a person to dispose of a deer by  
15 composting if the deer was taken with a depredation license or  
16 deer shooting permit.

unofficial