

House File 378 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 378
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 65)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to deer depredation.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 481C.2, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2025,
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 2025, 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, subsection 5, Code 2025, is amended
29 by adding the following new paragraph:

30 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. There shall be an annual deer depredation
31 season from January 11 through January 31 for any person
32 possessing a valid depredation license and tag or deer shooting
33 permit issued pursuant to this section on or after February 1 of
34 the preceding calendar year. The method of take for the deer
35 depredation season shall be a rifle using a cartridge approved by

1 the department, a shotgun, a muzzleloader, a handgun, a crossbow,
2 or a bow.

3 Sec. 4. Section 481C.2A, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
4 following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of
6 law to the contrary, any deer taken with a depredation license or
7 shooting permit issued under this chapter by the person to whom
8 the license or permit was issued may be disposed of by composting
9 or wastage.

10

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill relates to deer depredation. Under current law,
14 the wild animal depredation unit acts as the liaison to the
15 department of natural resources (DNR) for the producers in the
16 state who suffer crop, horticultural product, tree, or nursery
17 damage. The bill changes the language to apply to producers in
18 the state who suffer economic loss to agriculture, horticulture,
19 or silviculture operations.

20

Under current law, DNR is directed to issue depredation
21 permits to a landowner who incurs crop, horticultural product,
22 tree, or nursery damage of \$1,000 or more due to wild animals.
23 The bill directs DNR to issue both depredation permits and deer
24 shooting permits to a landowner or a tenant who suffers an
25 economic loss of \$1,000 or more to agriculture, horticulture, or
26 silviculture operations due to wild animals.

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The bill allows conservation officers to issue permits
28 pursuant to the bill.

29

The bill creates a designated deer depredation season from
30 January 11 through January 31. A person possessing a deer
31 depredation license and tag or deer shooting permit may use a
32 rifle with an approved cartridge, a shotgun, a muzzleloader, a
33 handgun, a crossbow, or a bow during the designated season.

34

The bill allows any deer taken with a depredation license or
35 shooting permit to be disposed of by composting or wastage if the

1 deer was taken by the person issued the license or permit.

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