

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 647

Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted 4/22/15

Short Title: Amend Trapping Law.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE TRAPPING LAW RELATING TO CONIBEAR TYPE TRAPS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 113-291.6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 113-291.6. Regulation of trapping.

...

(d) Conibear type traps that have an inside jaw spread or opening (width or height) greater than seven and one-half inches and no larger than 26 inches in width and 12 inches in height may only be set in the water and in areas in which beaver and otter may be lawfully trapped. For the purposes of this section:

- (1) A water-set trap is one totally covered by water with the anchor secured in water deep enough to drown the animal trapped quickly.
- (2) In areas of tidal waters, the mean high water is considered covering water.
- (3) In reservoir areas, covering water is the low water level prevailing during the preceding 24 hours.
- (4) Marshland, as defined in G.S. 113-229(n)(3), is not considered dry land.

(d1) "Bucket sets" are prohibited.

(d2) Conibear type traps set with bait and having an inside jaw spread or opening (width or height) greater than five and one-half inches and no more than seven and one-half inches may be set on dry land only within an enclosure approved by the rules of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission subject to the following minimum requirements:

- (1) No openings on the enclosure may exceed 60 square inches.
- (2) The trap trigger shall be recessed at least eight inches from all openings.
- (3) The top surface of the enclosure entrance shall include an overhang such that the trigger recess distance and the overhang distance are no less than 12 inches in combination.

(d3) Conibear type traps set without an enclosure as described in this section and without bait may be set on dry land only under the following restrictions:

- (1) On public lands, traps having an inside jaw spread or opening (width or height) greater than five and one-half inches and no more than six and one-half inches must be set such that the top of the trap is at least four feet above the ground.
- (2) On private lands, (i) traps may not have an inside jaw spread or opening (width or height) greater than six and one-half inches or (ii) traps having an inside jaw spread or opening (width or height) no more than seven and one-half inches may be set in buildings and structures or as authorized by a



1 depredation permit issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources
2 Commission.
3 "
4 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 113-270.5(a) reads as rewritten:
5 "(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, no one may take fur-bearing
6 animals by trapping, or by any other authorized special method that preserves the pelt from
7 injury, without first having procured a current and valid trapping license. All individuals
8 licensed under this section after October 1, 2016, shall complete a trapper education course
9 approved by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. When the trapping license is
10 required, it serves in lieu of a hunting license in the taking of fur-bearing animals. If fur-bearing
11 animals are taken as game, at the times and by the hunting methods that may be authorized,
12 hunting license requirements apply."
13 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall adopt rules
14 to require the reporting of domestic animals taken by trapping.
15 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to
16 offenses committed on or after that date.