

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 503—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing the
conservation of habitat for wildlife. (BDR 45-1091)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets **fomitted-material** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to wildlife; imposing certain conservation fees;
requiring a person who is not the holder of an annual
hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and
fishing license to pay an annual conservation fee to access
a wildlife management area; revising certain provisions
governing the use of money in the Wildlife Obligated
Reserve Account; and providing other matters properly
relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law provides that, in addition to any fee charged and collected for an
2 annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license, a \$3
3 habitat conservation fee must be paid. The proceeds from this fee must be deposited
4 in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account and must be used for wildlife habitat
5 rehabilitation and restoration. (NRS 502.242) **Section 2** of this bill redesignates the
6 habitat conservation fee as the conservation fee and sets the conservation fee at \$5
7 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. In addition, **section 2** imposes an annual
8 conservation fee of \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents on any person who
9 wishes to access a wildlife management area but is not the holder of a hunting,
10 trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license. **Section 2** also provides
11 that, each year, not more than 25 percent of the money in the Wildlife Obligated
12 Reserve Account may be used to monitor wildlife and its habitat for the purposes of
13 wildlife habitat rehabilitation and restoration. **Section 3** of this bill revises the
14 authority of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners concerning the use of a wildlife
15 management area by a person who pays the annual conservation fee.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 502.066 is hereby amended to read as follows:
502.066 1. The Department shall issue an apprentice hunting
license to a person who:

(a) Is 12 years of age or older;

(b) Has not previously been issued a hunting license by the
Department, another state, an agency of a Canadian province or an
agency of any other foreign country, including, without limitation,
an apprentice hunting license; and

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, is otherwise
qualified to obtain a hunting license in this State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
Department shall not impose a fee for the issuance of an apprentice
hunting license. For each apprentice hunting license issued, the
applicant or the mentor hunter for the applicant shall pay:

(a) Any service fee required by a license agent pursuant to
NRS 502.040;

(b) The ~~habitat~~ conservation fee required by NRS 502.242; and

(c) Any transaction fee that is set forth in a contract of this State
with a third-party electronic services provider for each online
transaction that is conducted with the Department.

3. An apprentice hunting license authorizes the apprentice
hunter to hunt in this State as provided in this section.

4. It is unlawful for an apprentice hunter to hunt in this State
unless a mentor hunter accompanies and directly supervises the
apprentice hunter at all times during a hunt. During the hunt, the
mentor hunter shall ensure that:

(a) The apprentice hunter safely handles and operates the
firearm or weapon used by the apprentice hunter; and

(b) The apprentice hunter complies with all applicable laws and
regulations concerning hunting and the use of firearms.

5. A person is not required to complete a course of instruction
in the responsibilities of hunters as provided in NRS 502.340 to
obtain an apprentice hunting license.

6. The issuance of an apprentice hunting license does not:

(a) Authorize the apprentice hunter to obtain any other hunting
license;

(b) Authorize the apprentice hunter to hunt any animal for which
a tag is required pursuant to NRS 502.130; or

(c) Exempt the apprentice hunter from any requirement of this
title.

7. The Commission may adopt regulations to carry out the
provisions of this section.



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8. As used in this section:

(a) "Accompanies and directly supervises" means maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to and maintains the ability readily to assume control of any firearm or weapon from an apprentice hunter.

(b) "Apprentice hunter" means a person who obtains an apprentice hunting license pursuant to this section.

(c) "Mentor hunter" means a person 18 years of age or older who holds a hunting license issued in this State and who accompanies and directly supervises an apprentice hunter. The term does not include a person who holds an apprentice hunting license pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. NRS 502.242 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.242 1. In addition to any fee charged and collected for an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license pursuant to NRS 502.240, a ~~habitat~~ conservation fee ~~of \$3~~ must be paid ~~in the amount of \$5 for a resident and \$10 for a nonresident.~~

2. *In order to access a wildlife management area, a person who is not the holder of an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license must pay an annual conservation fee in the amount of \$5 for a resident and \$10 for a nonresident.*

3. The Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. Revenue from the ~~habitat~~ conservation fee must be accounted for separately, deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account and, except as otherwise provided in *this subsection and* NRS 502.294 and 502.310, used by the Department for the purposes of wildlife habitat rehabilitation and restoration. *Each year, not more than 25 percent of the money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account may be used to monitor wildlife and its habitat for those purposes.* The interest and income earned on the money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

~~3.~~ 4. The money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account remains in the Account and does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

Sec. 3. NRS 504.143 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.143 1. To effectuate a coordinated and balanced program resulting in the maximum revival of wildlife in the State and in the maximum recreational advantages to the people of the State, the Commission has created and maintains state-owned wildlife management areas, and, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Interior and other federal



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1 agencies, has created and maintains other cooperative wildlife
2 management areas.

3 2. ~~{The}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in NRS 502.242, the*
4 Commission may permit hunting, fishing or trapping on or within,
5 or access to, occupancy and use of, areas so created and maintained.

6 3. The Commission may by regulation:

7 (a) Establish, extend, shorten or abolish open seasons and closed
8 seasons within such areas.

9 (b) Establish, change or abolish bag and creel limits and
10 possession limits in such areas.

11 (c) Prescribe the manner and the means of taking wildlife in
12 such areas.

13 (d) Establish, change or abolish restrictions in such areas based
14 upon sex, maturity or other physical distinctions.

15 (e) *Prescribe the manner of using such areas for a person*
16 *who pays the annual fee to access such areas pursuant to*
17 *NRS 502.242.*

18 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

