

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 474—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

MARCH 25, 2019

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to wildlife.
(BDR 45-902)

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

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

AN ACT relating to wildlife; authorizing the Department of Wildlife to expend money from the Wildlife Heritage Account; authorizing the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish a program which authorizes a person to transfer his or her tag to hunt a big game mammal to a qualified organization for use by certain persons; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Wildlife Heritage Account in the State General Fund and requires the Department of Wildlife to use the money in the Account for: (1) the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of wildlife; and (2) the management and control of predatory wildlife in this State. The Department may annually expend from the Account not more than 75 percent of the money deposited in the Account during the previous year and the total amount of interest earned on the money in the Account during that year. (NRS 501.3575) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes the Department, at any time, to expend from the account any amount of money in the Account which exceeds \$5,000,000.

Existing law requires a person who hunts any wildlife to obtain a license to do so in this State. (NRS 502.010) In addition to a regular hunting license, existing law requires a person to obtain an additional license, known as a tag, to hunt any deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, bear, moose, mountain lion or mountain goat. (NRS 502.130) Any license issued pursuant to title 45 of NRS relating to wildlife is: (1) not transferable to a person other than the person to whom the license was issued; and (2) subject to forfeiture if the license is transferred to another person. (NRS 502.100) **Section 2** of this bill authorizes the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to



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adopt regulations establishing a program which authorizes a person to transfer his or her tag to hunt a big game mammal to a qualified organization for use by a person who: (1) has a disability or life-threatening medical condition; or (2) is 16 years of age or younger and is otherwise eligible to hunt in this State. **Section 2** requires any regulation adopted by the Commission to include, without limitation, provisions setting forth the manner in which a qualified organization may apply for eligibility to allow such a person to use a tag to hunt a big game mammal. **Sections 3-5** of this bill make conforming changes.

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

Section 1. NRS 501.3575 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.3575 1. The Wildlife Heritage Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. The money in the Account must be used by the Department as provided in this section for:

(a) The protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of any game fish, game mammal, game bird or fur-bearing mammal in this State; and

(b) The management and control of predatory wildlife in this State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 502.250, money received by the Department from:

(a) A bid, auction, Silver State Tag Drawing or Partnership in Wildlife Drawing conducted pursuant to NRS 502.250; and

(b) A gift of money made by any person to the Wildlife Heritage Account,
must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Account.

3. The interest and income earned on the money in the Wildlife Heritage Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

4. ~~[The]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Department may annually expend from the Wildlife Heritage Account an amount of money not greater than 75 percent of the money deposited in the Account pursuant to subsection 2 during the previous year and the total amount of interest earned on the money in the Account during the previous year. In addition, the Department may, at any time, expend from the Account any portion of the amount of money in the Account which exceeds \$5,000,000.* The Commission shall review and approve expenditures from the Account. No money may be expended from the Account without the prior approval of the Commission.

5. The Commission shall administer the provisions of this section and may adopt any regulations necessary for that purpose.



1 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 502 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. *The Commission may adopt regulations establishing a*
4 *program which authorizes a person to transfer his or her tag to*
5 *hunt a big game mammal to a qualified organization for use by a*
6 *person who:*

7 (a) *Has a disability or life-threatening medical condition; or*

8 (b) *Is 16 years of age or younger and who is otherwise eligible*
9 *to hunt in this State.*

10 2. *Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must*
11 *include, without limitation, provisions setting forth the manner in*
12 *which a qualified organization may apply for eligibility to allow a*
13 *person to use a tag to hunt a big game mammal pursuant to*
14 *subsection 1.*

15 3. *As used in this section:*

16 (a) *"Disability" means a permanent physical impairment that*
17 *substantially limits one or more major life activities and requires*
18 *the assistance of another person or a mechanical device for*
19 *physical mobility.*

20 (b) *"Qualified organization" means a nonprofit organization*
21 *that:*

22 (1) *Is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the*
23 *Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3); and*

24 (2) *Provides opportunities to engage in various experiences*
25 *to a person who is 16 years of age or younger, with a preference*
26 *for a person:*

27 (I) *With a disability or life-threatening medical*
28 *condition; or*

29 (II) *Whose household income is not more than 150*
30 *percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty.*

31 **Sec. 3.** NRS 502.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 502.010 1. A person who hunts or fishes any wildlife without
33 having first procured a license or permit to do so, as provided in this
34 title, is guilty of a misdemeanor, except that:

35 (a) A license to hunt or fish is not required of a resident of this
36 State who is under 12 years of age, unless required for the issuance
37 of tags as prescribed in this title or by the regulations of the
38 Commission.

39 (b) A license to fish is not required of a nonresident of this State
40 who is under 12 years of age, but the number of fish taken by the
41 nonresident must not exceed 50 percent of the daily creel and
42 possession limits as provided by law.

43 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5 or 6 of NRS
44 202.300 and NRS 502.066, it is unlawful for any child who is under
45 18 years of age to hunt any wildlife with any firearm, unless the



child is accompanied at all times by the child's parent or guardian or is accompanied at all times by an adult person authorized by the child's parent or guardian to have control or custody of the child to hunt if the authorized person is also licensed to hunt.

(d) ~~FA~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of this act, a* child under 12 years of age, whether accompanied by a qualified person or not, shall not hunt big game in the State of Nevada. This section does not prohibit any child from accompanying an adult licensed to hunt.

(e) The Commission may adopt regulations setting forth:

(1) The species of wildlife which may be hunted or trapped without a license or permit; or

(2) The circumstances under which a person may fish without a license, permit or stamp in a lake or pond that is located entirely on private property and is stocked with lawfully acquired fish.

(f) The Commission may declare 1 day per year as a day upon which persons may fish without a license to do so.

2. This section does not apply to the protection of persons or property from unprotected wildlife on or in the immediate vicinity of home or ranch premises.

Sec. 4. 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. The Department shall charge and collect a fee in the amount of \$15 for the issuance of an apprentice hunting license.

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~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of this act, 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.

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. 5. NRS 502.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.100 *Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of this act:*

1. No license provided by this title shall be transferable or used by any person other than the person to whom it was issued.

2. Every person lawfully having such licenses who transfers or disposes of the same to another person to be used as a hunting, trapping or fishing license shall forfeit the same.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for purposes of adopting regulations and any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

2. On July 1, 2019, for all other purposes.

