

House Bill 1489

By: Representatives Burns of the 157th, Roberts of the 154th, and Lane of the 158th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild
2 animals, so as to prohibit the importation of live cervids into this state; to prohibit the
3 importation or possession of certain whole cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts; to define
4 certain terms; to provide penalties for violations; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 5 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals, is
9 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "27-5-2.1.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term,

12 (1) 'Cervid' means a member of the family cervidae.

13 (2) 'Chronic wasting disease' means a fatal disease that belongs to a group of diseases
14 known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and that affects the brains of
15 cervids.

16 (3) 'Clean' means having no meat matter or tissue attached to the carcass part.

17 (4) 'Importation' means the transportation of a cervid, cervid carcass, or carcass part into
18 this state.

19 (5) 'Whole' means the entire carcass, whether eviscerated or not, prior to the carcass
20 being processed.

21 (b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, or association to import,
22 bring, or cause to be imported or brought into this state any live cervid.

23 (2)(A) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a
24 misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and upon conviction shall be punished
25 by a fine of not less than \$1,500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00, imprisonment for a period
26 not exceeding 12 months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(B) The hunting and fishing privileges of any person convicted of violating paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be suspended for not less than three years from the date of conviction.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to import or possess a whole cervid carcass or cervid carcass part from any state having a documented case of a cervid infected with chronic wasting disease, except for any one or more of the following cervid carcass parts:

- (1) Boned-out meat and commercially processed cuts of meat;
- (2) Portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
- (3) Hides with no heads attached;
- (4) Clean skull plates with antlers attached;
- (5) Clean antlers;
- (6) Finished taxidermy heads; and
- (7) Clean upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories)."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.