

Senate Bill 474

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Hill of the 4th, Orrock of the 36th, Murphy of the 27th, Thompson of the 33rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to hunting of wildlife, so as to provide that in general any person may take
3 possession of a native wild animal which has been killed by a motor vehicle; to provide
4 exceptions and conditions; to require notification in the case of deer and bear; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 hunting of wildlife, is amended by adding a new Code Section 27-3-28 to read as follows:
10 "27-3-28.

11 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, any person may lawfully possess
12 a native wild animal which has been accidentally killed by a motor vehicle. The following
13 exceptions and conditions to this general rule shall apply:

14 (1) Any person taking possession of a deer or bear accidentally killed by a motor vehicle
15 must notify the department or a law enforcement officer of the fact and location of the
16 taking of possession and his or her name and address within 48 hours after taking
17 possession of the deer or bear; and

18 (2) This Code section does not authorize any person to take possession of any animal of
19 a species designated as a protected species under Article 5 of this chapter or under federal
20 law.

21 (b) A law enforcement officer receiving a report of a person taking possession of a deer
22 or bear under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall in turn transmit the
23 reported information to the department within 48 hours after receipt of such information."

24

SECTION 2.

25 Said article is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 27-3-47, relating to
26 collision with a deer by a motor vehicle, as follows:

27 "27-3-47.

28 Reserved. Any person who, while driving a motor vehicle, is involved in a collision with
29 a deer shall, if the deer is killed, immediately notify the nearest conservation ranger or
30 sheriff's office. If there exists a charitable institution or prison within the county which can
31 make use of the carcass, the conservation ranger may deliver the carcass to the institution
32 for consumption and shall obtain receipts therefor. If no such institution exists within the
33 county and there is no cause to question the accidental killing of the deer, the conservation
34 ranger may, at his discretion, award the carcass to the person who hit the deer, to be
35 possessed and consumed only by the immediate family of such person. Receipts shall be
36 acquired for a deer so awarded."

37

SECTION 3.

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