

The House Committee on Game, Fish and Parks offers the following substitute to HB 277:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to hunting, so as to change certain  
3 provisions relating to unlawful enticement of game and hunting in the vicinity of feed or bait;  
4 to change certain provisions relating to restrictions on hunting feral hogs; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to general provisions relative to hunting, is amended by revising Code Section  
10 27-3-9, relating to unlawful enticement of game, as follows:

11 "27-3-9.

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

13 (1) 'Northern zone' means the northern zone for hunting deer with firearms as established  
14 pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 27-3-15.

15 (2) 'Southern zone' means the southern zone for hunting deer with firearms as established  
16 pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 27-3-15.

17 (a.1) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter any  
18 corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feeds or bait so as to constitute a lure or  
19 attraction or enticement for any game bird or game animal, other than deer, on or over any  
20 area where hunters are or will be hunting; provided, however, that it shall be lawful to hunt  
21 deer within the vicinity of such feeds if the hunter is at least 200 yards away from and not  
22 within sight of the feed or bait.

23 (b)(1) Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful for any  
24 person to hunt any game bird or game animal upon, over, around, or near any place where  
25 any such corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feed or bait has been placed,  
26 exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or

27 enticement to such birds or animals. It shall also be unlawful to hunt any game animal  
 28 or game bird upon, over, around, or near any such place for a period of ten days following  
 29 the complete removal of all such feed or bait.

30 (2) The prohibitions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to:

31 (A) The hunting of deer in the northern zone, other than on lands under the ownership  
 32 or control and management of the state or federal government, if the hunter is at least  
 33 200 yards away from and not within sight of such feed or bait; and

34 (B) The hunting of deer in the southern zone, other than on lands under the ownership  
 35 or control and management of the state or federal government, if the hunter has written  
 36 permission of the landowner to hunt upon, over, around, or near such feed or bait,

37 except as otherwise provided by paragraph (3) of this subsection.

38 (3)(A) The board may by rule or regulation restrict the feeding, baiting, or hunting of  
 39 deer upon, over, around, or near such feed or bait in any county wherein there is a  
 40 documented occurrence of a communicable disease in deer and in any county adjoining  
 41 such county. Such restriction may be imposed in such county and any adjoining county  
 42 for a period of up to and including one year and may be extended for additional periods  
 43 of up to and including two years each upon documentation that the communicable  
 44 disease is still present in deer in such county. No person shall feed, bait, or hunt deer  
 45 in violation of any restriction imposed pursuant to this paragraph.

46 (B) The department shall give notice of such restriction by mail or electronic means  
 47 to each person holding a current license to hunt whose last known address is within a  
 48 restricted county. The department may place or designate the placement of signs and  
 49 markers so as to give notice of such restriction.

50 (c) When a conservation ranger is aware or becomes aware that a clearly identifiable area  
 51 of land or field is baited for doves in such a manner that hunting thereon would be a  
 52 violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section, it shall be the duty of the  
 53 conservation ranger to require the owner or other person having lawful possession or  
 54 control of the baited area of land or field to remove such bait. The conservation ranger  
 55 shall require such owner or other person to erect on the area of land or field signs having  
 56 printed thereon the words: 'No Hunting, Baited Field.' Such signs shall remain for ten days  
 57 after bait is removed. The printing on such signs shall be clearly visible to a person with  
 58 normal eyesight from a distance of at least 50 yards. A sufficient number of such signs  
 59 shall be erected to provide reasonable notice to hunters that the field or area is baited for  
 60 doves. If the conservation ranger cannot locate the owner or other person having lawful  
 61 possession or control of the ~~baited~~ area of land or field baited for doves, it shall be the duty  
 62 of such conservation ranger to erect such signs. The owner or other person having lawful  
 63 possession or control of a ~~baited~~ an area or field baited for doves who fails to comply with

64 an order of a conservation ranger requiring the removal of bait or the erection of signs, or  
 65 both, as required by this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. When a conservation  
 66 ranger is aware that a clearly identifiable area of land or field is baited for doves in such  
 67 a manner that hunting thereon would be a violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of  
 68 this Code section prior to any such violation, no charge may be brought against any person  
 69 under paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section unless the provisions of this  
 70 subsection have been followed. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude  
 71 the owner or other person having lawful possession or control of a baited area or field from  
 72 being charged with and convicted of a violation of subsection ~~(a)~~ (a.1) of this Code section.  
 73 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude a person's being charged with and  
 74 convicted of a violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section when such  
 75 violation is on ~~a baited~~ an area of land or field baited for doves which was not previously  
 76 identified by a conservation ranger as provided in this subsection prior to such violation."

77

## SECTION 2.

78 Said part is further amended in Code Section 27-3-24, relating to restrictions on hunting feral  
 79 hogs, by revising subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (a.1) as follows:

80 "(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt, or engage in the hunting of, feral hogs:

81 (1) Upon the lands of another or enter upon the lands of another in pursuit of feral hogs  
 82 without first obtaining permission from the landowner or lessee of such land or the lessee  
 83 of the game rights of such land;

84 (2) Upon any land which is posted without having the permission required by paragraph  
 85 (1) of this subsection in writing and carried upon the person;

86 ~~(3) Upon, over, around, or near any land or place upon which any corn, wheat, or other~~  
 87 ~~grains, salts, apples, or other feeds or bait which would constitute a lure, attraction, or~~  
 88 ~~enticement for any feral hog has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered~~  
 89 ~~or upon, over, around, or near any such place for a period of ten days following the~~  
 90 ~~complete removal of all such feed or bait; provided, however, this paragraph shall not~~  
 91 ~~prohibit the use of bait described in this paragraph for the purpose of trapping feral hogs~~  
 92 ~~or hunting feral hogs by means other than a firearm or bow and arrow~~ Reserved;

93 (4) From within a vehicle or while riding on a vehicle at night and with the use of a light;

94 (5) At night with a light, except that a light which is carried on the person of a hunter,  
 95 affixed to a helmet or hat worn by a hunter, or part of a belt system worn by a hunter may  
 96 be used for locating feral hogs; or

97 (6) During the firearms deer season unless the hunter and each person accompanying the  
 98 hunter are wearing a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange

99 material as an outer garment and such material or garment is worn above the waistline,  
100 and may include a head covering.

101 (a.1)(1) The board may by rule or regulation restrict the feeding, baiting, or hunting of  
102 feral hogs upon, over, around, or near feed or bait in any county wherein there is a  
103 documented occurrence of a communicable disease in deer and in any county adjoining  
104 such county. Such restriction may be imposed in such county and any adjoining county  
105 for a period of up to and including one year and may be extended for additional periods  
106 of up to and including two years each upon documentation that the communicable disease  
107 is still present in deer in such county. No person shall feed, bait, or hunt feral hogs in  
108 violation of any restriction imposed pursuant to this paragraph.

109 (2) The department shall give notice of such restriction by mail or electronic means to  
110 each person holding a current license to hunt whose last known address is within a  
111 restricted county. The department may place or designate the placement of signs and  
112 markers so as to give notice of such restriction."

113 **SECTION 3.**

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