

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 275

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 2 general provisions relative to game and fish, so as to remove a prohibition on hunting without
 3 a wildlife management area license; to change provisions relative to rules and regulations
 4 used to establish criminal violations; to amend Code Section 27-3-9 of the Official Code of
 5 Georgia Annotated, relating to unlawful enticement of game, so as to remove definitions
 6 relating to unlawful enticement of game and hunting in the vicinity of feed or bait; to remove
 7 certain prohibitions; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of
 8 Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to the registration, operation, and
 9 sale of watercraft, so as to regulate activities related to body surfing and wake surfing; to
 10 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal
 11 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
 15 provisions relative to game and fish, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code
 16 Section 27-1-33, relating to noncompliance with laws while on a fishing area, fish hatchery,
 17 natural area, or wildlife management area, hunting without a wildlife management area
 18 license, and acts constituting criminal trespass, as follows:

19 "(a) It shall be unlawful to enter upon or to hunt, trap, or fish on any public fishing area,
 20 fish hatchery, or natural area, or wildlife management area owned or operated by the
 21 department except in compliance with all applicable laws and all rules and regulations
 22 promulgated by the board including, but not limited to, any law, rule, or regulation relating
 23 to seasons or bag limits or requiring a special permit. ~~Further, it shall be unlawful for any~~
 24 ~~person except those specifically excluded by law to hunt on a wildlife management area~~
 25 ~~without a valid wildlife management area license as authorized by Code Section 27-2-23."~~

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SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 27-1-39, relating to rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations, as follows:

"27-1-39.

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources as provided in this title, the term 'rules and regulations' means those rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on January 1, ~~2016~~ 2018."

SECTION 3.

Code Section 27-3-9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to unlawful enticement of game, is amended by deleting subsection (a), by redesignating subsection (a.1) as subsection (a), by deleting paragraph (2) of subsection (b), by redesignating paragraph (3) of subsection (b) as paragraph (2), by redesignating paragraph (4) of subsection (b) as paragraph (3), and by revising subsection (a.2), as follows:

~~"(a.2)~~(a.1) Nothing in ~~subsection (a.1)~~ of this Code section shall prohibit any person from placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feeds or bait so as to constitute a lure or attraction or enticement for deer on lands that are not under the ownership or control and management of the state or federal government; provided, however, that any such lure or attraction or enticement shall not cause hunting on any adjoining property to be prohibited under subsection (b) of this Code section."

SECTION 4.

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018, and shall apply to all offenses occurring on or after such date.

SECTION 5.

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