

ADOPTED

Representative Franklin of the 160th offers the following amendment:

Amend the Senate Amendment to HB 285 (HB 285/SFA) by replacing lines 1 through the end with the following:

Amend HB 285 (LC 43 2562) by replacing lines 1 through the end with the following:

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 and Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hunting and noncommercial fishing, respectively, so as to revise provisions relating to hunting and fishing; to extend an exception for the use of air guns to hunt wildlife; to authorize fluorescent pink hunting outer garments; to revise provisions concerning the taking of catfish by bow and arrow; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hunting, is amended in Code Section 27-3-4, relating to legal weapons for hunting wildlife generally, use of silencers and suppressors prohibited, and penalty for violations, by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(9) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'air gun' means any pistol, handgun, or shoulder-held device, each of not less than 0.30 caliber, or air bow that propels a projectile in the form of a slug, shot, or arrow equipped with a broadhead utilizing unignited compressed air or gas. Air guns are legal weapons for hunting big game only during primitive weapon hunts, primitive weapon seasons, and firearm seasons. This

paragraph shall stand repealed effective July 1, ~~2025~~ 2028, unless continued in effect by the General Assembly prior to that date. At its ~~2025~~ 2028 regular session, the General Assembly shall review this paragraph to determine whether it should be continued in effect."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 27-3-24, relating to restrictions on hunting feral hogs, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

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

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

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

(3) During the firearms deer season unless the hunter and each person accompanying the hunter are wearing a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material as an outer garment and such material or garment is worn above the waistline, and may include a head covering."

SECTION 3.

Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 27-3-25, relating to hunting bears and required outer garments, as follows:

"27-3-25.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bears or for any person to accompany another person hunting bears unless each person shall wear a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material as an outer garment during

firearms and primitive weapons seasons. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline and may include a head covering."

SECTION 4.

Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 27-3-40, relating to required clothing, as follows:

"27-3-40.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer or for any person to accompany another person hunting deer during the firearms deer season unless each person shall wear a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material as an outer garment. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline and may include a head covering."

SECTION 5.

Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to noncommercial fishing, is amended in Code Section 27-4-34, relating to fishing with bow and arrow, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

"(d) It shall be unlawful to take ~~channel catfish and flathead~~ any catfish species ~~anywhere in the Savannah River, including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, from the waters of the state~~ by means of bow and arrow, except under the following conditions:

- (1) Each person using a bow and arrow shall have on his or her person a valid state resident or nonresident fishing license;
- (2) All arrows used pursuant to this subsection must be equipped with barbs or contain devices on the point to act as a harpoon for recovering fish and must be attached to the person or bow by a rope, line, or cord sufficient for recovering the arrow and channel catfish or flathead catfish;

70 (3) Arrows with poisonous or exploding heads are illegal;

71 (4) It shall be unlawful to discharge arrows into waters nearer than 150 feet to anyone
72 engaged in any other means of recreation; and

73 (5) The taking of ~~channel catfish and flathead~~ any catfish species ~~in the Savannah River,~~
74 ~~including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, from the~~
75 waters of the state by bow and arrow shall be legal at any time of the day and at night by
76 the use of a light."

77 **SECTION 6.**

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