

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 200

BY SENATORS HAMILTON, ROBERTS, AND JEFFRIES

[Passed March 11, 2023; in effect 90 days from

passage (June 9, 2023)]

FILED

2023 MAR 28 P 4: 55

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SB200

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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-5j of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to adding mortally wounded elk, turkey, and wild boar to list of wounded animals that may
3 be tracked and located using a leashed dog; allowing certain physically disabled hunters
4 to allow dog handler to kill mortally wounded animal; and providing that mortally wounded
5 animal shall count toward bag limit of hunter who fired initial shot.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5j. Leashed dogs for tracking mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild boar, or bear.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a person who is legally
2 hunting and reasonably believes he or she has mortally wounded a deer, elk, turkey, wild boar,
3 or bear may use leashed dogs to track and locate the mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild
4 boar, or bear. The hunter is also permitted to use a dog handler of leashed dogs to track and
5 locate the mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild boar, or bear. The hunter or the dog handler
6 shall always maintain physical control of the leashed dogs.

7 (b) The act of tracking a mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild boar, or bear with a dog
8 is hunting and the hunter and handler are subject to all applicable laws and rules. It is unlawful
9 for a hunter or dog handler to track deer, elk, turkey, wild boar, or bear with leashed dogs under
10 the provisions of this section unless he or she is in possession of a valid hunting license issued
11 pursuant to this article or is a person excepted from licensing requirements pursuant to this article,
12 and all other lawful authorizations as prescribed in this article. The hunter shall accompany the
13 dog handler and only the hunter may kill a mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild boar, or bear.
14 However, any hunter who is physically unable to accompany the handler in the tracking and
15 locating of the mortally wounded deer, elk, wild turkey, boar, or bear may designate the handler
16 to kill the deer, elk, wild turkey, boar, or bear when located by the handler. The deer, elk, turkey,
17 wild boar, or bear shall count toward the bag limit of the hunter who fired the initial shot.

- 18 (c) Any dog handler providing tracking services for profit must be licensed as an outfitter
- 19 or guide pursuant to §20-2-23 of this code.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.


Clerk of the Senate

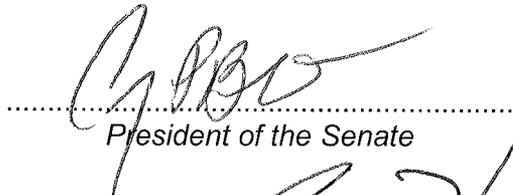

Clerk of the House of Delegates

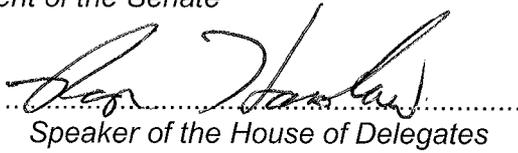
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FILED

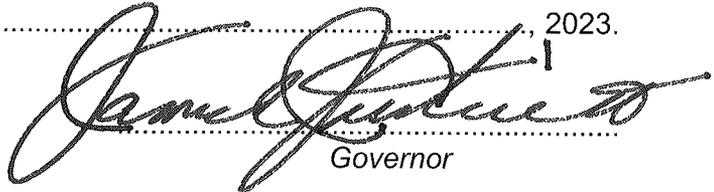
Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 28th
Day of March, 2023.


Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 16 2023

Time 11:41 am