

ASSEMBLY, No. 949

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits possession of deer or elk originating from outside the State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 AN ACT concerning the possession of certain deer and elk and
2 supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. No person shall possess any deer or elk, or part thereof,
8 that originates from a location outside of the State.

9 b. The provisions of subsection a. do not apply to:

10 (1) any deer or elk, or part thereof, that is possessed prior to the
11 effective date of this act;

12 (2) meat that is cut up and packaged, and not mixed with other
13 deer during processing;

14 (3) meat that is boneless;

15 (4) hides or cape with no part of the head attached;

16 (5) clean skull cap with antlers attached;

17 (6) antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;

18 (7) finished taxidermy heads; and

19 (8) upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

20 c. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection a. of
21 this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$250 for the
22 first offense, up to \$400 for the second offense, and up to \$500 for
23 each subsequent offense, to be collected by the Commissioner of
24 Environmental Protection in a civil action by summary proceeding
25 under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274
26 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The Superior Court and the municipal court
27 shall have jurisdiction over proceedings for the enforcement of the
28 penalty established by this section.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill would prohibit the possession of certain cervid
36 carcasses, hides, or antlers from cervids that were harvested in
37 another state.

38 The bill allows for the following to be possessed:

39 (1) any deer or elk, or part thereof, that is possessed prior to the
40 effective date of this act;

41 (2) meat that is cut up and packaged, and not mixed with other
42 deer during processing;

43 (3) meat that is boneless;

44 (4) hides or cape with no part of the head attached;

45 (5) clean skull cap with antlers attached;

46 (6) antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;

47 (7) finished taxidermy heads; and

48 (8) upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

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1 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a progressive and fatal
2 neurologic disease affecting members of the cervid family such as
3 axis deer, black-tailed deer, elk, fallow deer, moose, mule deer,
4 muntjac, red deer, reindeer, sika deer, and white-tailed deer. CWD
5 may be caused by an infectious protein called a prion. CWD prions
6 are shed from secretions of infected animals in saliva, blood, feces,
7 and urine. Prions are shed before the animals appear sick and are
8 known to remain infectious in the environment for decades where
9 they bind to soil and plants. Prions can spread by animal-to-animal
10 contact or by contact with a contaminated environment. CWD can
11 be spread by the natural movement of infected animals or by
12 humans moving live, infected, captive cervids or carcass parts of
13 infected cervids.

14 In 2002, the Department of Environmental Protection's Division
15 of Fish and Wildlife banned the importation of deer and elk into the
16 State as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of chronic
17 wasting disease into the State's wild and farmed herds of animals
18 belonging to the deer family. Under current rules, a person wishing
19 to import cervids into the State must comply with requirements set
20 forth by both the Department of Agriculture and the DEP's Division
21 of Fish and Wildlife. This bill further protects our State from
22 chronic wasting disease by prohibiting the possession of cervid
23 carcasses from other states, with certain exceptions.