

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 296
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/4/13
Senate Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/26/13
Fourth Edition Engrossed 7/3/13

Short Title: Omnibus Wildlife Resources Commission Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 14, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO (1) ADJUST THE FEES CHARGED FOR CERTAIN HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES ISSUED BY THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AND REPEAL THE COUNTY HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING LICENSES AND THE NONCOMMERCIAL SPECIAL DEVICE LICENSES; (2) ESTABLISH A BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT STAMP THAT MUST BE PROCURED BEFORE TAKING BEAR WITHIN THE STATE AND AMEND THE LAW RESTRICTING THE TAKING OF BLACK BEAR WITH BAIT; (3) ADJUST THE AGE FOR DISCOUNTED SPECIAL LICENSES FROM AGE SIXTY-FIVE TO AGE SEVENTY; (4) PROVIDE THAT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, THOSE HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES IN EFFECT SHALL REMAIN AT THE EXISTING LEVELS UNTIL THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ESTABLISHES NEW FEES THROUGH RULE MAKING, AND AUTHORIZE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH LICENSE FEES THROUGH RULE MAKING BEGINNING IN 2015; (5) REPLACE THE CURRENT SIX PERCENT WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENT COMMISSION FEE WITH A TWO-DOLLAR TRANSACTION FEE; (6) PROVIDE THAT NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION'S AUTHORIZED OPERATING BUDGET SHALL BE KEPT IN RESERVE; AND (7) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL TARGET FOR UTILIZATION OF THE ANNUAL EXPENDABLE INTEREST OF THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 113-270.1C(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:

- (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License – ~~\$20.00~~\$25.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State.

...."

SECTION 2. G.S. 113-270.1D reads as rewritten:

"§ 113-270.1D. Sportsman licenses.

(a) Annual Sportsman License – ~~\$40.00~~\$50.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State and entitles the licensee to take all wild animals and wild birds, including waterfowl, by all lawful methods in all open seasons, including the use of game



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lands, and to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters. An annual sportsman license issued under this subsection does not entitle the licensee to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters that are not joint fishing waters.

(b) Lifetime Sportsman Licenses. Except as provided in subdivision (7) of this subsection, lifetime sportsman licenses are valid for the lifetime of the licensees. Lifetime sportsman licenses entitle the licensees to take all wild animals and wild birds by all lawful methods in all open seasons, including the use of game lands, and to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters. A lifetime sportsman license issued under this subsection does not entitle the licensee to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters that are not joint fishing waters. Lifetime sportsman licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:

- ...
- (4) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License – ~~\$1,000.~~\$1,200. This license shall be issued only to an individual nonresident of the State.
 - (5) Age ~~65~~70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License – \$15.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State who is at least ~~65~~70 years of age.
 - (6) Repealed by Session Laws 2005-455, s. 1.7 effective January 1, 2007.
 - (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License – \$100.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State and who is a fifty percent (50%) or more disabled veteran as determined by the United States Department of Veterans ~~Affairs.~~ Affairs or as established by rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission. This license remains valid for the lifetime of the licensee so long as the licensee remains fifty percent (50%) or more disabled.
 - (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License – \$100.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State and who is totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security ~~Administration.~~ Administration or as established by rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission."

SECTION 3. G.S. 113-270.2(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The hunting licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are as follows:

- (1) Resident State Hunting License – ~~\$15.00.~~\$20.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State.
- ...
- ~~(3) Resident County Hunting License – \$10.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State and is valid only in the county of residence of the license holder.~~
- (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License – ~~\$15.00.~~\$20.00. This license shall be issued to an individual resident or nonresident to take only foxes and domestically raised game birds, other than wild turkey, only within a controlled hunting preserve licensed and operated in accordance with G.S. 113-273(g) and implementing rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (5) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License – ~~\$30.00.~~\$36.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State.
- (6) Nonresident State Hunting License. This license shall be issued only to a nonresident. The nonresident State hunting licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:
 - a. Season License – ~~\$60.00.~~\$80.00.

- 1 b. ~~Six-Day~~Ten-Day License – ~~\$40.00.~~\$60.00. This license is valid for
2 the ~~six~~10 consecutive dates indicated on the license."

3 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 113-270.3 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 113-270.3. Special activity licenses; stamps; big game kill reports.**

5 (a) In addition to any hunting, trapping, or fishing license that may be required pursuant
6 to G.S. 113-270.1B(a), individuals engaging in specially regulated activities must have the
7 appropriate special activity license and stamp prescribed in this section before engaging in the
8 regulated activity.

9 (b) The special activity licenses and stamp issued by the Wildlife Resources
10 Commission are as follows:

11 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License – ~~\$10.00.~~ \$13.00. This license shall be
12 issued only to an individual resident of the State and entitles the holder to
13 take big game by all lawful methods and during all open seasons.

14 (1a) Nonresident Bear Hunting License – ~~\$125.00.~~\$225.00. This license is valid
15 for use only by an individual within the State and must be procured before
16 taking any bear within the State. Notwithstanding any other provision of
17 law, a nonresident individual may not take any bear within the State without
18 procuring this license; provided, that those persons who have a nonresident
19 lifetime sportsman combination license purchased prior to May 24, 1994,
20 shall not have to purchase this license.

21 (1b) Bear Management Stamp – \$10.00. This electronically generated stamp must
22 be procured before taking any bear within the State. Notwithstanding any
23 other provision of law, a resident or nonresident individual may not take any
24 bear within the State without procuring this stamp; provided, that those
25 persons who have purchased a lifetime license established by
26 G.S. 113-270.1D(b), 113-270.2(c)(2), or 113-351(c)(3) prior to July 1, 2014,
27 and those persons exempt from the license requirements as set forth in
28 G.S. 113-276(c) and G.S. 113-276(n) shall obtain this stamp free of charge.
29 All of the revenue generated by this stamp shall be dedicated to black bear
30 research and management.

31 (2) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License. This license shall be issued only to
32 an individual nonresident of the State and entitles the holder to take big
33 game by all lawful methods and during all open seasons. The nonresident
34 big game hunting licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:

35 a. Season License – ~~\$60.00.~~\$80.00.

36 b. ~~Six-Day~~Ten-Day License – ~~\$40.00.~~\$60.00. This license is only valid
37 for the ~~six~~10 consecutive dates indicated on the license.

38 ...

39 (5) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License – ~~\$10.00.~~\$13.00. This license shall be
40 issued to an individual resident or nonresident of the State and entitles the
41 holder to take migratory waterfowl in accordance with applicable laws and
42 regulations. The Wildlife Resources Commission may implement this
43 license requirement through the sale of an official waterfowl stamp which
44 may be a facsimile, in an appropriate size, of the waterfowl conservation
45 print authorized by G.S. 113-270.2B. An amount not less than one-half of
46 the annual proceeds from the sale of this license shall be used by the
47 Commission for cooperative waterfowl habitat improvement projects
48 through contracts with local waterfowl interests, with the remainder of the
49 proceeds to be used by the Commission in its statewide programs for the
50 conservation of waterfowl."

51 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 113-270.4(b) reads as rewritten:

1 "(b) The hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources are:

2 (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License – ~~\$10.00-\$15.00~~. This license
3 is valid for use only by an individual resident of the State.

4 (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License – ~~\$100.00-\$150.00~~. This
5 license is valid for use by a nonresident individual in the State."

6 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 113-270.5(b) reads as rewritten:

7 "(b) The trapping licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are as follows:

8 (1) Resident State Trapping License – ~~\$25.00-\$30.00~~. This license is valid only
9 for use by an individual resident of the State.

10 ~~(2) Resident County Trapping License – \$10.00. This license is valid only for
11 use by an individual resident of the State within the county in which he
12 resides.~~

13 (3) Nonresident State Trapping License – ~~\$100.00-\$125.00~~. This license is valid
14 for use by an individual within the State."

15 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 113-271(d) reads as rewritten:

16 "(d) The hook-and-line fishing licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission
17 are as follows:

18 (1) Resident Annual Comprehensive Inland Fishing License – ~~\$20.00-\$25.00~~.
19 This license shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State.

20 (2) Resident State Inland Fishing License – ~~\$15.00-\$20.00~~. This license shall be
21 issued only to an individual resident of the State.

22 ...

23 ~~(4) Resident County Inland Fishing License – \$10.00. This license shall be
24 issued only to an individual resident of the State and is valid only within the
25 county of residence of the licensee.~~

26 (5) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License – ~~\$30.00-\$36.00~~. This license
27 shall be issued to an individual nonresident of the State.

28 (6) Short-Term Inland Fishing Licenses. Short-term inland fishing licenses are
29 valid only for the date or consecutive dates indicated on the licenses.
30 Short-term inland fishing licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources
31 Commission are:

32 a. Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License – ~~\$5.00-\$7.00~~. This license
33 shall be issued only to a resident of the State.

34 b. Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License – ~~\$10.00-\$18.00~~. This
35 license shall be issued only to a nonresident of the State.

36 c. Repealed by Session Laws 2005-455, s. 1.8, effective January 1,
37 2007.

38 (6a) Age ~~65~~70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License – \$15.00. This license
39 shall be issued only to an individual resident of the State who is at least ~~65~~70
40 years of age.

41 (6b) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License – \$10.00. This
42 license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State
43 and who is a fifty percent (50%) or more disabled veteran as determined by
44 the United States Department of Veterans ~~Affairs~~Affairs or as established
45 by rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission. This license remains valid
46 for the lifetime of the licensee so long as the licensee remains fifty percent
47 (50%) or more disabled.

48 (6c) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License – \$10.00. This
49 license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State
50 and who is totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social
51 Security ~~Administration~~Administration or as established by rules of the

1 Wildlife Resources Commission. This license remains valid for the lifetime
2 of the licensee.

3 (7), (8) Repealed by Session Laws 2005-455, s. 1.8, effective January 1, 2007.

4 (9) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License – ~~\$50.00.~~ \$100.00. This
5 license shall be issued only to the landholder of private property bordering
6 inland or joint fishing waters. This license shall entitle the landholder and
7 guests of the landholder to fish from the shore or any pier or dock
8 originating from the property without any additional fishing license. This
9 license is applicable only to private property and private docks and piers and
10 is not valid for any public property, pier, or dock nor for any private
11 property, pier, or dock operated for any commercial purpose whatsoever.
12 This license shall not be in force unless displayed on the premises of the
13 property and only entitles fishing without additional license to persons
14 fishing from the licensed property and then only when fishing within the
15 private property lines. This license is not transferable as to person or
16 location. For purposes of this subdivision, a guest is any individual invited
17 by the landholder to fish from the property at no charge. A charge includes
18 any fee, assessment, dues, rent, or other consideration which must be paid,
19 whether directly or indirectly, in order to be allowed to fish from the
20 property, regardless of the stated reason for such charge."

21 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 113-272 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 113-272. Special trout license; mountain heritage trout waters 3-day fishing license.**

23 ...

24 (d) Special Trout License: Fee. – ~~\$10.00.~~ \$13.00. This license shall be issued to an
25 individual resident or nonresident of the State and entitles the holder to fish with hook and line
26 in public mountain trout waters.

27 (e) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing License: Fee. – \$5.00. This license
28 shall be issued to an individual resident or nonresident of the State and shall entitle the holder
29 to fish in waters designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as mountain heritage trout
30 waters for the three consecutive days indicated on the license. An individual who holds a
31 mountain heritage trout waters 3-day fishing license does not need to hold a hook-and-line
32 fishing license issued pursuant to G.S. 113-271 in order to fish in mountain heritage trout
33 waters."

34 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 113-272.2(c) reads as rewritten:

35 "(c) The special device licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are as
36 follows:

37 ~~(1) Resident Noncommercial Special Device License—\$10.00. Except as rules~~
38 ~~of the Wildlife Resources Commission provide for use of equipment by~~
39 ~~more than one person, this license is valid only for use by an individual~~
40 ~~resident of the State. It authorizes the taking of nongame fish from inland~~
41 ~~fishing waters with no more than three special devices authorized by the~~
42 ~~rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission for use in specified waters. The~~
43 ~~Wildlife Resources Commission may restrict the user of the license to~~
44 ~~specified registered equipment, require tagging of items of equipment,~~
45 ~~charge up to one dollar (\$1.00) per tag issued, and require periodic catch~~
46 ~~data reports. Unless specifically prohibited, nongame fish lawfully taken~~
47 ~~under this license may be sold.~~

48 (1a) Resident ~~Commercial~~ Special Device License – ~~\$100.00.~~ \$75.00. Except as
49 rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission provide for use of equipment by
50 more than one person, this license is valid only for use by an individual
51 resident of the State. It authorizes the taking of nongame fish from inland

fishing waters with ~~four or more~~ special devices authorized by the rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission for use in specified waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission may restrict the user of the license to specified registered equipment, require tagging of items of equipment, charge up to one dollar (\$1.00) per tag issued, and require periodic catch data reports. Nongame fish lawfully taken under this license may be sold.

(2) ~~Nonresident Noncommercial Special Device License — \$50.00. Except as rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission provide for use of equipment by more than one person, this license is valid for use only by an individual within the State. It is otherwise subject to the terms and conditions set out in subdivision (1) of this subsection.~~

(2a) Nonresident ~~Commercial~~ Special Device License — ~~\$200.00.~~ \$500.00. Except as rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission provide for use of equipment by more than one person, this license is valid only for use by an individual within the State. It is otherwise subject to the terms and conditions set out in subdivision (1a) of this subsection.

(3), (4) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 156, s. 11."

SECTION 10. G.S. 113-351(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Types of Unified Hunting and Fishing Licenses; Fees; Duration. — The Wildlife Resources Commission shall issue the following Unified Hunting and Fishing Licenses:

(1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License. — ~~\$55.00.~~ \$65.00. This license is valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. This license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State. This license authorizes the licensee to take all wild animals and wild birds, including waterfowl, by all lawful methods in all open seasons, including the use of game lands; to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters; and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters.

(2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License. — ~~\$35.00.~~ \$40.00. This license is valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. This license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State. This license authorizes the licensee to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters, and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters.

(3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses. — Except as provided in sub-subdivision f. of this subdivision, a license issued under this subdivision is valid for the lifetime of the licensee. A license issued under this subdivision authorizes the licensee to take all wild animals and wild birds, including waterfowl, by all lawful methods in all open seasons, including the use of game lands; to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters; and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters.

...

c. Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License. — \$675.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual who is 12 years of age or older but younger than ~~65~~ 70 years of age and who is a resident of the State.

d. Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License. — ~~\$1,350.~~ \$1,550. This license shall be issued only to

- 1 an individual who is 12 years of age or older and who is not a
 2 resident of the State.
- 3 e. Resident Age ~~65~~70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational
 4 Fishing License. – \$30.00. This license shall be issued only to an
 5 individual who is ~~65~~70 years of age or older and who is a resident of
 6 the State.
- 7 f. Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal
 8 Recreational Fishing License. – \$110.00. This license shall be issued
 9 only to an individual who is a resident of the State and who is a fifty
 10 percent (50%) or more disabled veteran as determined by the United
 11 States Department of Veterans ~~Affairs.~~Affairs or as established by
 12 rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission. This license remains
 13 valid for the lifetime of the licensee so long as the licensee remains
 14 fifty percent (50%) or more disabled.
- 15 g. Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal
 16 Recreational Fishing License. – \$110.00. This license shall be issued
 17 only to an individual who is a resident of the State and who is totally
 18 and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security
 19 ~~Administration.~~Administration or as established by rules of the
 20 Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 21 (4) Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses. – Except as
 22 provided in sub-subdivisions b. and c. of this subdivision, a license issued
 23 under this subdivision is valid for the lifetime of the licensee. A license
 24 issued under this subdivision authorizes the licensee to fish with hook and
 25 line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, including
 26 public mountain trout waters, and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal
 27 fishing waters.
- 28 a. Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing
 29 License. – \$450.00.
- 30 b. Resident Legally Blind Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational
 31 Fishing License. – No charge. This license shall be issued only to an
 32 individual who is a resident of the State and who has been certified
 33 by the Department of Health and Human Services as an individual
 34 whose vision with glasses is insufficient for use in ordinary
 35 occupations for which sight is essential. This license remains valid
 36 for the lifetime of the licensee so long as the licensee remains legally
 37 blind.
- 38 c. Resident Adult Care Home Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal
 39 Recreational Fishing License. – No charge. This license shall be
 40 issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State and who
 41 resides in an adult care home as defined in G.S. 131D-2.1 or
 42 G.S. 131E-101(1). This license remains valid for the lifetime of the
 43 licensee so long as the licensee remains a resident of an adult care
 44 home."

45 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 113-174.2(c) reads as rewritten:

46 "(c) Types of CRFLs; Fees; Duration. – The Wildlife Resources Commission shall issue
 47 the following CRFLs:

- 48 ...
- 49 (6) Lifetime CRFLs. – Except as provided in sub-subdivision j. of this
 50 subdivision, CRFLs issued under this subdivision are valid for the lifetime of
 51 the licensee.

1 ...
 2 g. Resident Adult Lifetime CRFL. – \$250.00. This license shall be
 3 issued only to an individual who is 12 years of age or older but
 4 younger than ~~65~~70 years of age and who is a resident of the State.

5 ...
 6 i. Resident Age ~~65~~70 Lifetime CRFL. – \$15.00. This license shall be
 7 issued only to an individual who is ~~65~~70 years of age or older and
 8 who is a resident of the State.

9"

10 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 113-291.1(b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) No wild animals or wild birds may be taken:

12 (1) From or with the use of any vehicle; vessel, other than one manually
 13 propelled; airplane; or other conveyance except that the use of vehicles and
 14 vessels is authorized:

15 a. As hunting stands, subject to the following limitations. No wild
 16 animal or wild bird may be taken from any vessel under sail, under
 17 power, or with the engine running or while still in motion from such
 18 propulsion. No wild animal or wild bird may be taken from any
 19 vehicle if it is in motion, the engine is running, or the passenger area
 20 of the vehicle is occupied. The prohibition of occupying the
 21 passenger area of a vehicle does not apply to a disabled individual
 22 whose mobility is restricted.

23 b. For transportation incidental to the taking.

24 (2) With the use or aid of any artificial light, net, trap, snare, electronic or
 25 recorded animal or bird call, or fire, except as may be otherwise provided by
 26 statute[;] provided, however, that the Wildlife Resources Commission may
 27 adopt rules prescribing seasons and the manner of taking of wild animals and
 28 wild birds with the use of artificial light and electronic calls. No wild birds
 29 may be taken with the use or aid of salt, grain, fruit, or other bait. No black
 30 bear may be taken with the use or aid of any salt, salt lick, grain, fruit,
 31 honey, sugar-based material, animal parts or products, or other bait, ~~and no~~
 32 except as provided by the rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission.
 33 However, no rule established by the Wildlife Resources Commission shall
 34 allow for the taking of a black bear with the use and aid of bear bait
 35 attractants, including scented sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent
 36 powders, and no rule established by the Wildlife Resources Commission
 37 shall allow for the taking of a black bear while it is consuming bait. No
 38 wild turkey may be taken from an area in which bait has been placed until the
 39 expiration of 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise
 40 removed. The taking of wild animals and wild birds with poisons, drugs,
 41 explosives, and electricity is governed by G.S. 113-261, G.S. 113-262, and
 42 Article 22A of this Subchapter.

43 Upon finding that the placement of processed food products in areas
 44 frequented by black bears is detrimental to the health of individual black
 45 bears or is attracting and holding black bears in an area to the extent that the
 46 natural pattern of movement and distribution of black bears is disrupted and
 47 bears' vulnerability to mortality factors, including hunting, is increased to a
 48 level that causes concern for the population, the Wildlife Resources
 49 Commission may adopt rules to regulate, restrict, or prohibit the placement
 50 of those products and prescribe time limits during which hunting is
 51 prohibited in areas where those products have been placed.

1 Any person who is convicted of unlawfully taking bear with the use or
2 aid of any type of bait as provided by this subsection or by rules adopted
3 pursuant to this subsection is punishable as provided by G.S. 113-294(c1)."

4 **SECTION 13.** Chapter 828 of the 1981 Session Laws is repealed.

5 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 113-276 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 113-276. Exemptions and exceptions to license and permit requirements.**

7 (a), (b) Repealed by Session Laws 1979, c. 830, s. 1.

8 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this Subchapter, every landholder, his spouse, and
9 dependents under 18 years of age residing with him may take wildlife upon the land held by the
10 landholder without any license required by G.S. 113-270.1B or G.S. 113-270.3(a), except that
11 such persons are not exempt from the bear management stamp established in
12 G.S. 113-270.3(b)(1b) and the falconry license described in G.S. 113-270.3(b)(4).

13 ...

14 (n) The Wildlife Resources Commission may adopt rules to exempt individuals from
15 the hunting and fishing license requirements of G.S. 113-270.1B, 113-270.3(b)(1),
16 113-270.3(b)(1a), 113-270.3(b)(1b), 113-270.3(b)(2), 113-270.3(b)(3), 113-270.3(b)(5),
17 113-271, 113-272, and 113-272.2(c)(1) who participate in organized hunting and fishing events
18 for the specified time and place of the event when the purpose of the event is consistent with
19 the conservation objectives of the Commission. A person exempted from licensing
20 requirements under this subsection is responsible for complying with any reporting
21 requirements prescribed by rule of the Wildlife Resources Commission, purchasing any federal
22 migratory waterfowl stamps as a result of waterfowl hunting activity, and complying with any
23 other requirements that the holder of a North Carolina license is subject to. Those exempted
24 persons shall comply with the hunter safety requirements of G.S. 113-270.1A or shall be
25 accompanied by a properly licensed adult who maintains a proximity to the license exempt
26 individual which enables the adult to monitor the activities of, and communicate with, the
27 individual at all times."

28 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 113-270.1(b) reads as rewritten:

29 "(b) License agents may ~~deduct from the amount collected for each license or permit a~~
30 ~~fee of six percent (6%)~~ charge a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per transaction for licenses or
31 permits issued."

32 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 113-270.1B is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

33 "(c) For those licenses sold directly through the Commission by telephone, mail, online,
34 or at a service counter, the Commission may charge a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per transaction.
35 A fee may not be charged by the Commission for federal Harvest Information Program (HIP)
36 certification, big game harvest report cards for lifetime license holders, exempt landowners,
37 persons of less than 16 years of age, or for any other license or vessel transactions for which
38 there is no charge."

39 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 75A-5.2(c) reads as rewritten:

40 "(c) As compensation for services rendered to the Commission and to the general public,
41 vessel agents shall receive the ~~following specified commission from the statutory fee for each~~
42 ~~listed transaction~~ surcharge listed below. The surcharge shall be added to the fee for each
43 certificate issued.

44 (1) ~~Renewal of certificate of number – \$1.25~~ \$3.00.

45 (2) ~~Transfer of ownership and certificate of number – \$3.00~~ \$5.00.

46 (3) ~~Issuance of new certificate of number – \$3.00~~ \$5.00.

47 (4) ~~Issuance of duplicate certificate of number – \$0.50~~ \$3.00.

48 (5) ~~Issuance or transfer of certificate of title – \$3.00~~ \$5.00."

49 **SECTION 18.** Article 24 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by
50 adding a new section to read:

51 "**§ 143-249.1. Operating budget.**

1 No more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the certified operating budget of the Wildlife
2 Resources Commission shall be allowed to accumulate in a cash balance. It is the intent of the
3 General Assembly to implement in any subsequent fiscal year a nonrecurring reduction in an
4 amount equal to the cash balance that exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the authorized
5 operating budget in the prior fiscal year."

6 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 143-250.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(f1) At all times during which the cash balance in the Wildlife Endowment Fund is equal
8 to or greater than the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), the Wildlife
9 Resources Commission shall budget at least fifty percent (50%) of the annual expendable
10 interest from the Fund, as determined by the Board of Trustees of the Fund, to implement the
11 conservation goals set forth in the Wildlife Resource Commission's strategic plan."

12 **SECTION 20.(a)** Effective January 1, 2015, the statutory fees for the hunting,
13 fishing, trapping, and activity licenses issued and administered by the Wildlife Resources
14 Commission shall remain at the levels existing on that date until the rules required to be
15 adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section become effective.

16 **SECTION 20.(b)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall adopt rules to
17 establish fees for the hunting, fishing, trapping, and activity licenses issued and administered by
18 the Wildlife Resources Commission. No rule to increase fees above January 1, 2015, levels
19 may increase a fee in excess of the average increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
20 Consumers over the preceding five years.

21 **SECTION 20.(c)** The statutory fees for the hunting, fishing, trapping, and activity
22 licenses issued and administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission shall expire when the
23 rules adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section become effective.

24 **SECTION 21.** All discounted licenses for persons at least 65 years of age provided
25 for in G.S. 113-270.1D(b), 113-271(d), 113-351(c), and 113-174.2(c) for which the age
26 requirement is increased from 65 to 70 by Sections 2, 7, 10, and 11 of this act shall remain
27 available at age 65 for all persons who were born on or before August 1, 1953.

28 **SECTION 22.** Sections 1 through 11 and Sections 14 and 21 of this act become
29 effective August 1, 2014. Sections 12 and 13 are effective when they become law. Sections 15,
30 16, 17, and 18 of this act become effective January 1, 2014. Section 20 becomes effective
31 January 1, 2015. The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2013.