

Originating Committee: Archery and Shooting Sports
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Intended Recipient: Missouri State Legislature

Raising Missouri's Wildlife Violation Fines

WHEREAS, current big game and game fish poaching fines within the State of Missouri are too low to discourage the illegal taking of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the average cost for taking a deer or wild turkey out of season in Missouri is \$272; and

WHEREAS, similar fines in neighboring states such as Kansas and Iowa, range from \$596-\$2,500 per animal; and

WHEREAS, states across the country are considering raising poaching fines to help deter the illegal taking of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Missouri outdoorsmen should be held to the highest of ethical standards in the field; and

WHEREAS, current statewide poaching fines are determined by county courts in the county of which the violation took place, so taking the fines out of the control of the Department of Conservation; and

WHEREAS, a statewide, mandatory list of fines set by the Missouri State Legislature, and enforced by the Missouri Department of Conservation, that are separate from the county courts fines, could help deter poaching by raising the cost considerably; and

WHEREAS, taking the guesswork out for prosecutors could hasten the court process and make the outcome clearer across the state for all related issues; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has passed House Bill 1873, raising poaching fines; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 11th day of March 2018, commends the passage of House Bill 1873 by the House of Representatives and urges the Senate to follow suit and encourages the governor to sign the bill.

Searchable Key Words: Wildlife violation fines, fines, poaching, county court fines, mandatory fines

Expires: March 11th, 2023