

Originating Committee: Archery and Shooting Sports

Author: Jessica Filla and Ryli Jetton (CLC)

Intended Recipient: Missouri General Assembly

Support for 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 cost for take, attempt to take or possess deer or wild turkey during closed season in Missouri according to the Missouri Courts Conservation charge code is \$239 for a resident or \$389 for a non-resident; and

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

WHEREAS, other states have or are considering raising poaching fines to help deter the illegal taking of wildlife; and

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

WHEREAS, a statewide, mandatory list of fines set by the Missouri General Assembly, and enforced by the local courts, could help deter poaching by raising the cost considerably; and

WHEREAS, raising fine amounts was considered in previous legislative sessions but never passed; and

WHEREAS, this type of legislation would add another option for prosecutors and make the outcome clearer and more uniform across the state for all related issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10th day of March 2019, supports increasing fines for the illegal taking or poaching of Missouri wildlife.

Searchable Keywords: Wildlife violation fines, fines, poaching, mandatory fines, conservation charge codes.

Expires: March 10th, 2024