

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Omnibus Game and Fish Bill

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Section

- 1 **Game birds.** Includes mourning doves as a game bird.
- 2 **Unprotected birds.** Differentiates Eurasian collared doves from mourning doves.
- 3 **Establishment by commissioner.** Declares that a state game refuge may be less than 640 contiguous acres, if it borders a waterbody suitable for wildlife habitat.
- 4 **Establishment by petition of land holders.** Allows the DNR to designate a portion of a land area in a petition as a game refuge.
- 5 **Establishment by petition of county residents.** Technical for sections 1 and 2.
- 6 **Migratory waterfowl sanctuary.** Changes terminology and permits the DNR to designate by rule part of a game refuge or lake as a migratory waterfowl sanctuary.
- 7 **Waterfowl feeding and resting areas.** Technical.
- 8 **Hearing.** Clarifies the scope of court hearing when value of illegal animals is over \$500.
- 9 **Suspension for failure to appear in court or to pay a fine or surcharge.** Requires the DNR Commissioner to suspend a person's game and fish license and permit privileges for three years, if:
 - (a) the person doesn't appear in court for a game and fish violation; or
 - (b) does not pay a fine or surcharge after being sentenced to do so.
- 10 **Separate selection of eligible licensees.** Restricts certain turkey licenses to specific agricultural land owned or leased by the license holder.
- 11 **Youth deer license.** Allows archery to be included in a youth deer license for residents under 16.
- 12 **Hunting restricted between evening and morning.** Clarifies shooting hours for hunting

Section

waterfowl and migratory game birds.

- 13 Use of dogs and horses to take big game prohibited.** Allows dogs to trail bears under DNR rules.
- 14 Mourning doves.** Allows an open season to take mourning doves, with a small game license.
- 15 License and stamp validation required to take turkey: tagging and registration requirements.** Allows an unlicensed adult to assist a turkey hunter under the age of 16, as long as the adult doesn't possess a firearm or bow and arrow.
- 16 Report; change in shooting hours.** Requires a report on changes in section 12 to the legislature committees on natural resources policy by January 15, 2007.
- 17 Report; mourning dove season.** Requires a report, by August 1, 2005, on the results and impact of the mourning dove season.
- 18 Repealer.** Repeals the existing statutory prohibition on taking mourning doves.
- 19 Effective date.** Makes sections 1, 2, 8, 14, 17 and 18 effective the day following final enactment.