

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/23/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2063

By: Representative Hammer

By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
FORCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Feral Hog Eradication Task Force.

(a) The Feral Hog Eradication Task Force is created.

(b) The task force shall be composed of:

(1) The Director of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

(2) The Secretary of the Arkansas Agriculture Department;

(3) The *Deputy* Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry

Commission;

(4) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Natural Resources

Commission;

(5) The Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage;

(6) The Director of the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas

Economic Development Commission;

(7) The Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism;

(8) *The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture*

Vice-President for Agriculture or his or her designee; and

(9) *One (1) representative from each of the following groups:*

(A) Arkansas Association of Counties;



(B) Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts;

(C) Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation;

(D) Arkansas Forestry Association;

(E) Arkansas Pork Producers Association;

(F) Nature Conservancy; and

(G) Arkansas Dog Hunters Association.

(c) The task force may add members to the task force as advisory members.

(d) The Arkansas Agriculture Department shall provide office space, staff and materials for the task force.

(e) The task force shall select from its membership a chair and a vice chair.

(f)(1) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required for any action of the task force.

(g) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Feral Hog Eradication Task Force – Duties.

(a) The Feral Hog Eradication Task Force shall report on or before December 31, 2017, to the cochairs of the Legislative Council regarding the progress of the task force toward completing the project outlined in this section.

(b) The task force shall create a plan for the eradication of feral hogs in Arkansas.

(c) The plan created under this section shall include provisions for:

(1) Controlling invasive feral hogs will take a long-term, cooperative approach with aggressive and effective strategies;

(2) Four (4) tenets for effective population reduction and eradication efforts as the core principles to steer policy and guide the actions of the partnership, as follows:

(A) Developing a multi-partner alliance to identify and address feral hog issues;

(B) Increasing public understanding of the damage and harm caused by feral hogs;

(C) Ensuring that sound regulatory mechanisms and

enforcement capabilities exist to control illegal transport and release of feral hogs; and

(D) Increasing resources for landowners and land managers to control feral hogs;

(3) Developing and implementing of effective outreach tools to disseminate information to the public that defines the problems and issues associated with feral hogs;

(4) Resolving ambiguities among existing statutes regarding livestock and feral hogs;

(5) Appropriating, allocating, identifying, and pursuing known and alternative funding mechanisms to aid and administer the feral hog eradication program;

(6) Strengthening existing possession and transport laws to increase penalties for persons convicted of transport and release of feral hogs;

(7) Identifying:

(A) Endangered and sensitive species; and

(B) Critical, sensitive, or significant habitats, or eco-regions or counties, that have been damaged or are threatened by the negative impacts caused by feral hogs; and

(8) Developing plans to:

(A) Remediate feral hog damage; and

(B) Remove feral hogs from feral-hog damaged areas using collaborative projects, tools, and funding for the benefit of the public and private lands and native flora and fauna held as public trust within those areas.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration.

This act expires on June 30, 2018.

/s/Hammer