

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1808

By: Representatives Unger, Pearce

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS; TO MAKE VARIOUS VIOLATIONS OF WILDLIFE REGULATIONS CRIMINAL AND PUNISHABLE AS FELONIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS; AND TO MAKE VARIOUS VIOLATIONS OF WILDLIFE REGULATIONS CRIMINAL AND PUNISHABLE AS FELONIES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 43, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

15-43-101. Criminal violation of wildlife regulations punishable as felonies.

(a) Upon conviction, a person is guilty of a Class D felony if he or she:

(1) While knowingly hunting wildlife in a manner that creates a substantial danger of serious physical injury to another person, causes physical injury to a person;

(2) While hunting wildlife with a firearm or archery tackle, negligently shoots another person with the firearm or archery tackle and the actor is under the influence of:

(A) Alcohol;



- (B) A controlled substance; or
 - (C) A combination of alcohol or a controlled substance;
 - (3) Purchases, sells, offers for sale, barter, or trades any species of wildlife or a portion of wildlife:
 - (A) That is taken out of season;
 - (B) That is over the bag limit; or
 - (C) When the aggregate value of the wildlife or portion of the wildlife is five hundred dollars (\$500) or more;
 - (4) Imports, exports, transports, sells, purchases, hunts, harasses, takes, or attempts to take any bald or golden eagle;
 - (5) Imports, exports, transports, sells, purchases, hunts, harasses, takes, or attempts to take any part, nest, or egg of a bald or golden eagle;
 - (6) Violates the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 668 - 668d, as it existed on January 1, 2023;
 - (7) Exploits wildlife within five (5) years of a second or subsequent conviction for any of the following:
 - (A) Hunting or taking big game during the nighttime;
 - (B) Hunting during a closed season;
 - (C) Hunting without a license; or
 - (D) Hunting at night while using sound-suppressor, infrared, thermal, laser-optical, or night-vision equipment; or
 - (8) Exploits wildlife through a violation of any wildlife regulation after having been convicted previously of seven (7) or more wildlife regulation violations within a period of five (5) years.
- (b) The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission has exclusive authority to enforce this section.