
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 102—ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS

PREFILED FEBRUARY 1, 2023

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR SCHEIBLE

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Prohibits certain competitions in which certain animals are taken. (BDR 45-128)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to wildlife; prohibiting a person from organizing, sponsoring, promoting, conducting or participating in any type of a competition in which certain animals are taken for prizes or other inducements; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law establishes certain unlawful acts and penalties related to the taking
2 of certain animals. (Chapter 501 of NRS) Existing law provides that any person
3 who performs a prohibited act relating to wildlife is, except as otherwise provided
4 by specific statute, guilty of a misdemeanor. (NRS 501.385) **Section 1** of this bill
5 prohibits a person from organizing, sponsoring, promoting, conducting or
6 participating in any contest, tournament, derby or any other type of competition that
7 includes the taking of a covered animal for prizes or any other form of inducement.
8 **Section 1** defines “covered animal” to mean a beaver, bobcat, coyote, fox, mink,
9 muskrat, otter, rabbit, skunk or weasel.
10 **Section 2** of this bill provides that a person who violates this prohibition: (1) by
11 organizing, sponsoring or conducting a prohibited contest, tournament, derby or
12 any other type of competition, is liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,000
13 nor more than \$30,000; and (2) by participating in a prohibited contest, tournament,
14 derby or any other type of competition, is liable for a civil penalty of not less than
15 \$50 nor more than \$1,000.



16 **Section 3** of this bill makes a conforming change to provide that fur-bearing
17 mammals injuring property may not be taken by means of such a competition that
18 includes the taking of a covered animal for prizes or any other form of inducement.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 501 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. A person shall not organize, sponsor, promote, conduct or*
4 *participate in any contest, tournament, derby or any other type of*
5 *competition in which a covered animal is taken for prizes or any*
6 *other form of inducement.*

7 *2. A covered animal or the remains of a covered animal*
8 *seized as evidence for a violation of this section, in accordance*
9 *with NRS 501.375, becomes the property of the Department.*

10 *3. The provisions of this section do not prohibit:*

11 *(a) A competitive field trial for hunting dogs or a competitive*
12 *field trial for falconry conducted pursuant to NRS 503.200; or*

13 *(b) A landowner, an agent of a landowner or a lessee of a*
14 *landowner from taking a covered animal provided that the taking*
15 *is not part of a contest, tournament, derby or any other type of*
16 *competition.*

17 *4. As used in this section, "covered animal" means a beaver,*
18 *bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, rabbit, skunk or weasel.*

19 **Sec. 2.** NRS 501.3855 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 501.3855 1. In addition to the penalties provided for the
21 violation of any of the provisions of this title, every person who:

22 (a) Unlawfully kills or possesses a trophy big game mammal is
23 liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 nor more than
24 \$30,000; or

25 (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) or NRS
26 503.610, unlawfully kills or possesses a big game mammal, moose,
27 bobcat, swan or eagle is liable for a civil penalty of not less than
28 \$250 but less than \$5,000.

29 2. For the unlawful killing or possession of fish or wildlife not
30 included in subsection 1, a person is liable for a civil penalty of not
31 less than \$25 nor more than \$1,000.

32 3. For hunting, fishing or trapping without a valid license, tag
33 or permit, a person is liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$50
34 nor more than the amount of the fee for the license, tag or permit
35 required for the activity in which the person engaged.

36 4. *For organizing, sponsoring, promoting or conducting a*
37 *contest, tournament, derby or any other type of competition in*



1 *violation of section 1 of this act, a person is liable for a civil*
2 *penalty of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$30,000.*

3 5. *For participating in a contest, tournament, derby or any*
4 *other type of competition in violation of section 1 of this act, a*
5 *person is liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$50 nor more*
6 *than \$1,000.*

7 6. Every court, before whom a defendant is convicted of
8 unlawfully killing or possessing any wildlife, shall order the
9 defendant to pay the civil penalty in the amount stated in this section
10 for each mammal, bird or fish unlawfully killed or possessed. The
11 court shall fix the manner and time of payment.

12 ~~6.7~~ 7. The Department may attempt to collect all penalties and
13 installments that are in default in any manner provided by law for
14 the enforcement of a judgment.

15 ~~6.8~~ 8. If a person who is ordered to pay a civil penalty
16 pursuant to this section fails to do so within 90 days after the date
17 set forth in the order, the Department may suspend, revoke, or
18 refuse to issue or renew any license, tag, permit, certificate or other
19 document or privilege otherwise available to the person pursuant to
20 this title or chapter 488 of NRS.

21 ~~7.1~~ 9. Each court that receives money pursuant to the
22 provisions of this section shall forthwith remit the money to the
23 Department which shall deposit the money with the State Treasurer
24 for credit to the Wildlife Account in the State General Fund.

25 ~~8.1~~ 10. As used in this section, "trophy big game mammal"
26 means a mule deer with an outside antler measurement of at least 24
27 inches, a bighorn sheep of any species with at least one horn
28 exceeding a half curl, a Rocky Mountain elk with at least six antler
29 points on one antler, a pronghorn antelope with at least one horn
30 which is more than 14 inches in length, a mountain goat or a black
31 bear. As used in this subsection:

32 (a) "Antler" means any bony growth originating from the
33 pedicle portion of the skull of a big game mammal that is annually
34 cast and regenerated as part of the annual life cycle of the big game
35 mammal.

36 (b) "Antler point" means a projection which is at least 1 inch in
37 length with the length exceeding the width of its base, excluding the
38 first point on the main beam commonly known as the eye guard on
39 mule deer.

40 (c) "Horn exceeding a half curl" means a horn tip that has grown
41 at least through 180 degrees of a circle determined by establishing a
42 parallel reference line from the base of the horn and measuring the
43 horn tip to determine whether the horn tip has grown at least to the
44 projection of the reference line.



1 (d) "Outside antler measurement" means the perpendicular
2 measurement at right angles to the center line of the skull of a deer
3 at the widest point between the main antler beams or the antler
4 points off the main antler beams.

5 **Sec. 3.** NRS 503.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 503.470 1. ~~Fur-bearing~~ *Except as otherwise provided in*
7 *section 1 of this act, fur-bearing* mammals injuring any property
8 may be taken or killed at any time in any manner by the owner or
9 occupant of the property or with the permission of the owner or
10 occupant.

11 2. When the Department has determined from investigations or
12 upon a petition signed by the owners of 25 percent of the land area
13 in any irrigation district or the area served by a ditch company
14 alleging that an excessive population of beaver or otter exists or that
15 beaver or otter are doing damage to lands, streams, ditches, roads or
16 water control structures, the Department shall remove such excess
17 or depredating beaver or otter.

