

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2693

BY DELEGATES HAMILTON, A. EVANS, PAYNTER, AMBLER,

BUTLER, R. ROMINE, RODIGHIERO, ELDRIDGE AND

HORNBUCKLE

[Passed March 5, 2018; in effect ninety days from passage.]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to state ownership of wildlife.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-3. State ownership of wildlife.

1 The ownership of and title to all wildlife in the State of West Virginia is hereby declared to
2 be in the state, as trustee for the people. A person shall not take or hunt wildlife in any manner,
3 or at any time, unless the person taking or hunting the wildlife consents that the title to the wildlife
4 is and remains in the State of West Virginia for the purpose of regulating the taking, hunting,
5 using, and disposing of the wildlife. The taking or hunting of wildlife at any time or in any manner
6 by any person is considered consent: *Provided, That*, all fish, frogs, and other aquatic life in
7 privately-owned ponds are, and remain, the private property of the owner or owners of the
8 privately-owned ponds, and that the fish, frogs, and other aquatic life in the privately-owned ponds
9 may be caught, taken or killed by the owner or owners at any time.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Chairman, House Committee

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Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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Clerk of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

The within this the.....
day of, 2018.

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Governor