

1 **H. B. 4328**

2
3 (By Delegates Talbott, Crosier, R. Phillips, Anderson,
4 Azinger, Rodighiero, Hamilton and Hall)

5
6 [By request of the Division of Natural Resources)

7 [Introduced January 27, 2012; referred to the

8 Committee on Natural Resources then the Judiciary .]

9
10 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-22 of the Code of West Virginia,
11 1931, as amended, relating to tagging of certain game animals;
12 and removing bobcats from the list of species requiring a
13 field tag.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That §20-2-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
16 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

18 **§20-2-22. Tagging, removing, transporting and reporting bear,**
19 **bobcat, deer, wild boar and wild turkey.**

20 (a) Each person killing a bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or
21 wild turkey found in a wild state shall either attach a completed
22 ~~game~~ field tag to the animal or remain with the animal and have
23 upon his or her person a completed ~~game~~ field tag before removing
24 the carcass in any manner from where it was killed.

25 (b) While transporting the carcass of a bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer,

1 wild boar or wild turkey from where it was killed, each person
2 shall either attach a completed ~~game~~ field tag to the animal or
3 have upon his or her person a completed ~~game~~ field tag.

4 (c) Upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle
5 or vessel each person shall attach a ~~game~~ field tag to the killed
6 bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or wild turkey. The ~~game~~ field tag
7 shall remain on the carcass until it is retagged with a game tag by
8 a natural resources police officer or an official checking station.
9 The game tag shall remain on the carcass until it is dressed for
10 consumption.

11 (d) If a person who does not possess a ~~game~~ field tag kills a
12 bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or wild turkey, he or she shall make
13 a tag. The field tag shall bear the name, address and, if
14 applicable, the license number of the hunter and the time, date and
15 county of killing.

16 (e) The carcass of a wild turkey shall be delivered to a
17 natural resources police officer or an official checking station
18 for checking and retagging before it is either skinned or
19 transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to that in
20 which the kill was made.

21 (f) The fresh skin and head or carcass of the deer shall be
22 delivered to a natural resources police officer or an official
23 checking station for checking and retagging before it is
24 transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to that in

1 which the kill was made.

2 (g) A person who kills a bear shall treat the carcass and
3 remains in accordance with the provisions of section twenty-two-a
4 of this article.

5 (h) For each violation of this section a person is subject to
6 the penalties provided in this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove bobcats from the list of species that requires a field tag. This will bring bobcats into consistency with those species of furbearers which are required to be checked at an official game check station (e.g. beaver, fisher and otter) but are not required to be field tagged.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.