

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 1239

Short Title: Expand Beaver Program/Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Bowen; Hall, H. Hunter, and Redwine.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 4, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE BEAVER DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM AND MAKE THAT PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ALL COUNTIES EXPERIENCING BEAVER DAMAGE, TO AUTHORIZE WILDLIFE RESOURCES TO COLLECT A FEE FROM LANDOWNERS RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Section 69 of Chapter 1044 of the 1991 Session Laws reads as rewritten:

~~"BEAVER DAMAGE CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM AND STATEWIDE PROGRAM~~

Sec. 69. (a) ~~There~~ is established the Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board. The Board shall consist of nine members, as follows:

- (1) The Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, or his designee, who shall serve as chair;
- (2) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a designee;
- (3) The Director of the Division of Forest Resources of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, or a designee;
- (4) The Director of the Soil and Water Conservation Division of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, or a designee;
- (5) The Director of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, or a designee;
- (6) The Secretary of Transportation, or a designee;

- 1 (7) The State Director of the Animal Damage Control Division of the
2 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of
3 Agriculture, or a designee;
- 4 (8) The President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or a
5 designee, representing private landowners in the participating counties;
6 and
- 7 (9) A representative of the North Carolina Forestry Association.

8 (b) The Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board shall develop a ~~pilot~~ program to
9 control beaver damage on private and public lands. ~~Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, and~~
10 ~~Sampson Counties shall~~ Any county experiencing beaver damage may participate in the
11 ~~pilot~~ program. The Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board shall act in an advisory
12 capacity to the Wildlife Resources Commission in the implementation of the program.
13 In developing the program, the Board shall:

- 14 (1) Orient the program primarily toward public health and safety and
15 toward landowner assistance, providing some relief to landowners
16 through beaver control and management rather than eradication;
- 17 (2) Develop a priority system for responding to complaints about beaver
18 damage;
- 19 (3) Develop a system for documenting all activities associated with beaver
20 damage control, so as to facilitate evaluation of the program;
- 21 (4) Provide educational activities as a part of the program, such as printed
22 materials, on-site instructions, and local workshops;
- 23 (5) Provide for the hiring of personnel necessary to implement beaver
24 damage control activities, administer the ~~pilot~~ program, and set salaries
25 of personnel;
- 26 (6) Evaluate the costs and benefits of the program that might be applicable
27 elsewhere in North Carolina.

28 Upon the conclusion of the ~~pilot~~ program on December 1, ~~1993, 1994,~~ the Board
29 shall issue a report to the Wildlife Resources Commission on the results of the ~~program,~~
30 ~~including recommendations on the feasibility of continuing the program in participating~~
31 ~~counties and the desirability of expanding the program into other counties.~~ program.

32 (c) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall implement the ~~pilot~~ program, and
33 may enter a ~~cooperative agreement with the Animal Damage Control Division of the~~
34 ~~Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture,~~
35 cooperative agreements with federal and State agencies, local governments, and
36 landholders to accomplish the ~~pilot~~ program. The Wildlife Resources Commission may
37 charge landowners a fee for the cost of providing services under the program.

38 The Beaver Damage Control Account is established as a nonreverting account
39 within the Wildlife Resources Fund. The Wildlife Resources Commission may use
40 revenues in the account only for the beaver damage control program established in this
41 section. Fees collected under this section, amounts appropriated by the General
42 Assembly or received from the federal government for statewide beaver damage
43 control, and matching funds required of counties participating in the program shall be
44 credited to the account. Revenue in the Beaver Damage Control Account that has been

1 neither obligated nor expended as of December 1, 1994, shall revert to the Wildlife
2 Resources Fund.

3 ~~(d) Notwithstanding G.S. 113-291.6(d) or any other law, it is lawful to use snares~~
4 ~~when trapping beaver pursuant to the beaver damage control program developed~~
5 ~~pursuant to this section. The provisions of Chapter 218 of the 1975 Session Laws;~~
6 ~~Chapter 492 of the 1951 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 506 of the 1955 Session~~
7 ~~Laws; and Chapter 1011 of the 1983 Session Laws. Any laws regulating the seasons or~~
8 ~~methods of trapping do not apply to trapping carried out in implementing the beaver~~
9 ~~damage control program developed pursuant to this section.~~

10 ~~(e) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Environment, Health, and~~
11 ~~Natural Resources for the Wildlife Resources Commission for the 1992-93 fiscal year,~~
12 ~~the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be used to implement a~~
13 ~~beaver damage control pilot program and a one-time statewide program. These funds~~
14 ~~shall be allocated as follows:~~

- 15 ~~(1) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to provide the State share to~~
16 ~~implement the pilot program in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, and~~
17 ~~Sampson Counties, provided the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars~~
18 ~~(\$25,000) in federal funds are available to provide the federal share;~~
19 ~~and~~
20 ~~(2) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be used statewide to control beaver~~
21 ~~damage.~~

22 ~~(f) The funds allocated in subdivision (e)(1) of this section shall be matched by~~
23 ~~four thousand dollars (\$4,000) of local funds from each of the four participating~~
24 ~~counties.~~

25 ~~(g) The Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission shall~~
26 ~~determine what constitutes the most appropriate use of the funds allocated in~~
27 ~~subdivision (e)(2) of this section in order to alleviate the most severe beaver damage~~
28 ~~problems statewide and to identify the extent of beaver damage problems statewide.~~

29 ~~(h) Subsections (a) through (d) of this section expire December 1, 1993-1994."~~

30 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Wildlife
31 Resources Commission the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the
32 1993-94 fiscal year to implement the statewide beaver damage control program
33 established in Section 69 of Chapter 1044 of the 1991 Session Laws, as amended by
34 Section 1 of this act. The funds appropriated in this section shall be matched by five
35 thousand dollars (\$5,000) of local funds from each county electing to participate in the
36 beaver damage control program.

37 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.