**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑11‑710(A) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE hunting of feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos, TO PROVIDE THAT FERAL HOGS, COYOTES, AND ARMADILLOS MAY BE HUNTED at any time of the year under authority of and pursuant to the conditions contained in a depredation permit issued by the department AND from the last day of February to the first day of July of that same year with any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow when notice is given to the department, AND TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS FOR HUNTING THESE ANIMALS AT NIGHT.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 50‑11‑710(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑11‑710. (A) Night hunting in this State is unlawful except that:

(1) Raccoons, opossums, foxes, mink, and skunk may be hunted at night; however, they may not be hunted with artificial lights except when treed or cornered with dogs, and may not be hunted with buckshot or any shot larger than a number four, or any rifle ammunition larger than a twenty‑two rimfire.

(2) Feral hogs may be hunted at night with or without the aid of bait, electronic calls, artificial light, or night vision devices:

(a) ~~during~~ at any time of the year with a bow and arrow other than a crossbow, or pistol having iron sights, a barrel length not exceeding nine inches, and which is not equipped with a butt‑stock, scope, or laser site;

(b) ~~from the last day of February to the first day of July of that same year with any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow when notice is given to the department pursuant to subsection (D). When hunting at night with a center fire rifle pursuant to this item, a hunter must be at an elevated position at least ten feet from the ground; and~~ at any time of the year under authority of and pursuant to the conditions contained in a depredation permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 50‑11‑2570; and

(c) ~~at any time of the year under authority of and pursuant to the conditions contained in a depredation permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 50‑11‑2570.~~ from the last day of February to the first day of July of that same year with any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow when notice is given to the department pursuant to subsection (D). When hunting at night with a center fire rifle pursuant to this item:

(i) a hunter using supersonic center fire ammunition must hunt from an elevated position at least ten feet from the ground; (ii) a hunter using subsonic center fire ammunition is not required to hunt from an elevated position provided that he is not carrying supersonic center fire ammunition for the same rifle.

(3) Coyotes and armadillos may be hunted at night with or without the aid of bait, electronic calls, artificial light, or night vision devices:

(a) ~~during~~ at any time of the year with a bow and arrow other than a crossbow, a rimfire rifle, a shotgun with shot size no larger than a BB, or a pistol of any caliber having iron sights, a barrel length not exceeding nine inches, and which is not equipped with a butt‑stock, scope, or laser light;

(b) ~~from the last day of February to the first day of July of that same year with any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow when notice is given to the department pursuant to subsection (D). When hunting at night with a center fire rifle pursuant to this item, a hunter must be at an elevated position at least ten feet from the ground; and~~ at any time of the year under authority of and pursuant to the conditions contained in a depredation permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 50‑11‑2570; and

(c) ~~at any time of the year under authority of and pursuant to the conditions contained in a depredation permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 50‑11‑2570.~~ from the last day of February to the first day of July of that same year with any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow when notice is given to the department pursuant to subsection (D). When hunting at night with a center fire rifle pursuant to this item:

(i) a hunter using supersonic center fire ammunition must hunt from an elevated position at least ten feet from the ground; (ii) a hunter using subsonic center fire ammunition is not required to hunt from an elevated position provided that he is not carrying supersonic center fire ammunition for the same rifle.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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