

HB15 INTRODUCED



1 HB15
2 C5KAWJW-1
3 By Representative Lipscomb
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 05-Feb-24
6 2024 Regular Session



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources may introduce desirable species of game fish into the waters of this state.

This bill would require the commissioner to issue a permit to municipalities and private entities to release black bass into the Coosa River provided certain requirements are satisfied.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to natural resources; to require the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue a permit for the introduction of black bass into the Coosa River when certain requirements are satisfied.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall issue a permit to a municipality or private entity associated with fishing or conservation that allows the introduction and placement of black bass into the Coosa River if all of the following are satisfied:



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29 (1) The municipality or private entity obtains the
30 black bass from a fish hatchery located in this state which is
31 approved by the department.

32 (2) The only black bass that will be introduced or
33 placed into the Coosa River are the Northern Largemouth Bass
34 (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) subspecies, the Florida Bass
35 (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) subspecies, or a first
36 generation offspring of these two subspecies.

37 (3) The municipality or private entity bears all costs
38 associated with the purchase, transport, and introduction of
39 the black bass.

40 (b) The commissioner, under his or her authority
41 granted in Sections 9-2-2 and 9-2-7, Code of Alabama 1975, may
42 deny a permit as provided for in this section due to
43 environmental, pathogenic, or biological factors or for the
44 protection of public health and welfare.

45 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
46 commissioner from issuing permits for the introduction and
47 placement of other subspecies of black bass into segments of
48 the Coosa River when the commissioner determines that the
49 introduction and placement of those subspecies is appropriate
50 for the fishery.

51 (d) The Department of Conservation and Natural
52 Resources shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this
53 section.

54 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2024.