

# SENATE BILL No. 189

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 14-8-2-290.5; IC 14-22-6-16.

**Synopsis:** Locating and recovering wild game. Permits a person to use an unmanned aerial vehicle with infrared abilities to locate and recover a legally taken animal.

**Effective:** July 1, 2024.

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## Baldwin, Garten

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January 9, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Commerce and Technology.

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Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2024)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# SENATE BILL No. 189

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-290.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024]: **Sec. 290.5. "Unmanned aerial**  
4 **vehicle", for purposes of IC 14-22-6-16, has the meaning set forth**  
5 **in IC 35-31.5-2-342.3.**

6 SECTION 2. IC 14-22-6-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.107-2017,  
7 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
8 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 16. (a) This section does not apply to the  
9 following:

- 10 (1) The department or the department's designee.
- 11 (2) Employees or agents of a governmental entity while
- 12 performing official duties.
- 13 (3) Employees or agents of an educational or research institution
- 14 acting for bona fide educational or scientific purposes.
- 15 (4) Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle to assist, provide care for,
- 16 or provide veterinary treatment to a specific wild animal.
- 17 (5) Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle to monitor areas of



1 agricultural production or to monitor nuisance wild animals.  
2 (b) As used in this section, "take" means to:  
3 (1) kill, shoot, spear, harm, catch for the purpose of killing, trap  
4 for the purpose of killing, or pursue for the purpose of killing a  
5 wild animal; or  
6 (2) attempt to engage in conduct under subdivision (1).  
7 (c) During the period:  
8 (1) beginning fourteen (14) days before the hunting season for a  
9 particular wild animal species; and  
10 (2) ending upon the expiration of legal hunting hours on the last  
11 day of the hunting season;  
12 a person may not knowingly use an unmanned aerial vehicle ~~(as~~  
13 ~~defined by IC 35-31.5-2-342.3)~~ to search for, scout, locate, or detect a  
14 wild animal to which the hunting season applies as an aid to take the  
15 wild animal.  
16 **(d) A person may legally operate an unmanned aerial vehicle**  
17 **with infrared abilities to locate and recover a legally taken animal.**

