



Reprinted
January 23, 2024

SENATE BILL No. 189

DIGEST OF SB 189 (Updated January 22, 2024 3:10 pm - DI 106)

Citations Affected: IC 14-8; IC 14-22.

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.

**Baldwin, Garten, Messmer,
Johnson T, Byrne, Doriot**

January 9, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Commerce and Technology.
January 18, 2024, reported favorably — Do Pass.
January 22, 2024, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

SB 189—LS 6914/DI 150



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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

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- 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.**
18 **This subsection does not authorize a person to:**
19 **(1) enter the property of another person; or**
20 **(2) recover an animal from the property of another person;**
21 **without the permission of the landowner.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Commerce and Technology, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 189, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 189 as introduced.)

BUCHANAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 2

SENATE MOTION

Madam President: I move that Senate Bill 189 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, line 17, after "animal." insert "**This subsection does not authorize a person to:**

- (1) enter the property of another person; or**
- (2) recover an animal from the property of another person; without the permission of the landowner."**

(Reference is to SB 189 as printed January 19, 2024.)

YOUNG M

