

HOUSE BILL 119

By Richey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70,
relative to hunting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 2, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

70-2-207.

(a)

(1) The commission shall create and implement a system that utilizes a
preference pool and an open pool for drawings held for quota elk hunt permits.

(2)

(A)

(i) The system must draw half of the permits, rounded up
to the nearest whole number if half of the number of permits does
not equal a whole number, from a preference pool in which an
individual who qualifies and applies for a permit receives one (1)
preference point each year the individual qualifies and applies.

(ii) For each preference point accumulated, an individual
receives one (1) additional entry into the drawing from the
preference pool. A preference point shall not be used for a
drawing in the same year in which the preference point was
obtained.

(iii) If the individual's entry is not drawn from the preference pool for the individual's preferred hunt, the individual's name must be included as a single entry in the open pool described in subdivision (a)(2)(B).

(iv) An individual who qualifies and applies for the preference pool retains all preference points accumulated until the individual's entry is drawn for a permit from the preference pool or the open pool. Once the individual's entry is drawn for a permit from the preference pool or the open pool, the individual's preference points reset to zero (0).

(B) The system must draw half of the permits, rounded down to the nearest whole number if half of the number of permits does not equal a whole number, from an open pool in which each individual who qualifies and applies for a permit receives only one (1) entry.

(b)

(1) This section does not apply to the issuance or transfer of special permits under § 70-2-219(e).

(2) For the purpose of calculating how many permits will be drawn from a pool as described in subdivision (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(B), a special permit issued under § 70-2-219(e) shall not be included in the total number of quota permits for the season.

(c) Notwithstanding § 70-1-206(a)(7) and § 70-1-401(a), the commission shall not require a fee for a quota elk hunt license or tag, and shall only require a non-refundable ten dollar (\$10.00) application fee, to be paid by each individual who qualifies and applies for a permit.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-401, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and adding the following as new subsections:

(b) Fees collected pursuant to § 70-2-227 must be used solely for the management of the quota elk hunt program and for conservation and management of the elk species in this state.

(c) Funds realized from the sale of licenses, advertising, from contrabands, fines, penalties, forfeitures, or from any privilege taxes levied under this title shall not be used for any other purposes than those set out in subsections (a) and (b), and moneys in the wildlife resources fund shall not be diverted to the general fund or any other public fund. Likewise, interest accruing on investments and deposits of the wildlife resources fund must be returned to the fund and remain a part of it, and interest shall not be diverted to any other public fund.

SECTION 3. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.