

HB 862 -- WILDLIFE CODE VIOLATIONS

SPONSOR: Holand

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 17 to 0.

In addition to the existing class A misdemeanor charge, this bill requires anyone convicted of illegally taking or possessing an antlered deer with the intent to sell to remit to the Conservation Commission an amount ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500, depending on the deer's Boone & Crockett score. Resident landowners on their own property and individuals guilty of minor tagging or checking violations are exempt. The commission may allocate up to 25% of the funds for grants that promote anti-poaching activities.

The bill also requires courts to notify the commission if anyone fails to appear at a hearing or pay a fine for taking wildlife illegally. The commission may consider this information in permit suspension, revocation, or denial actions.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the intent of the bill is to keep poachers from getting away with a \$200 penalty on a trophy buck that will sell for more than \$1,000. About 2% of the deer population in Missouri has the attributes mentioned in the bill.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Holand; Department of Conservation; and Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst