

HB 862 -- Wildlife Code Violations

Sponsor: Holand

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.