

HB 2225 -- Wild or Feral Swine

Sponsor: Loehner

This bill changes the laws regarding wild or feral swine. The Director of the Department of Agriculture is authorized to establish rules regarding the fencing and health standards for Russian and European wild boars or wild-caught swine held alive on private land. Any person holding these swine on private land must annually obtain a permit from the department. The capture and possession of feral hogs on public land and the transport of live Russian and European wild boars or wild-caught swine through or on public land is prohibited. The transport of live Russian and European wild boars or wild-caught swine for any purpose other than to slaughter requires a permit from the department unless the transporter is issued an exemption permit by the department. Any person in violation of these provisions will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and may be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation.

Any person who knowingly releases any swine on public or private land to live in a wild or feral state without adequate fencing will be subject to an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per swine released for a first offense, \$2,000 per swine released for a second offense, and \$3,000 per swine released for any subsequent offense.

The Animal Health Fund is created which will consist of all fees and administrative penalties collected by the department under the provisions of the bill. Moneys appropriated from the fund must be used to administer the provisions of the bill.