

Senate Bill No. 450

(By Senator Laird)

[Introduced January 30, 2012; referred to
the Committee on Natural Resources.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to tagging of certain game animals; and removing bobcats from the list of species requiring a field tag.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §20-2-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-22. Tagging, removing, transporting and reporting bear, deer, wild boar and wild turkey.

- 1 (a) Each person killing a bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or
- 2 wild turkey found in a wild state shall either attach a
- 3 completed ~~game~~ field tag to the animal or remain with the

4 animal and have upon his or her person a completed ~~game~~
5 field tag before removing the carcass in any manner from
6 where it was killed.

7 (b) While transporting the carcass of a bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer,
8 wild boar or wild turkey from where it was killed, each
9 person shall either attach a completed ~~game~~ field tag to the
10 animal or have upon his or her person a completed ~~game~~
11 field tag.

12 (c) Upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge,
13 vehicle or vessel each person shall attach a ~~game~~ field tag to
14 the killed bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or wild turkey. The
15 ~~game~~ field tag shall remain on the carcass until it is retagged
16 with a game tag by a natural resources police officer or an
17 official checking station. The game tag shall remain on the
18 carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

19 (d) If a person who does not possess a ~~game~~ field tag kills
20 a bear, ~~bobcat~~, deer, wild boar or wild turkey, he or she shall
21 make a tag. The field tag shall bear the name, address and,
22 if applicable, the license number of the hunter and the time,
23 date and county of killing.

24 (e) The carcass of a wild turkey shall be delivered to a
25 natural resources police officer or an official checking

26 station for checking and retagging before it is either skinned
27 or transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent
28 to that in which the kill was made.

29 (f) The fresh skin and head or carcass of the deer shall be
30 delivered to a natural resources police officer or an official
31 checking station for checking and retagging before it is
32 transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to
33 that in which the kill was made.

34 (g) A person who kills a bear shall treat the carcass and
35 remains in accordance with the provisions of section twenty-
36 two-a of this article.

37 (h) For each violation of this section a person is subject
38 to the penalties provided in this article.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove bobcats from the list of species that requires a field tag. This will bring bobcats into consistency with those species of furbearers which are required to be checked at an official game check station (e.g. beaver, fisher and otter) but are not required to be field tagged.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.)