

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2644

BY DELEGATES R. THOMPSON, N. BROWN AND HICKS

[Introduced January 24, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources then Government Organization.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-47 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to allowing an owner of Japanese quail (Coturnix Quail and Button Quail) to keep them as
 3 pets without having to obtain a license for a private game farm.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-47. License for private game farm for propagating animals and birds for commercial purposes.

1 (a) The director may issue a license for the operation of a private game preserve for
 2 propagation of wild animals and wild birds for commercial purposes. The license shall authorize
 3 the holder to breed or raise animals and birds as specified by the license, to sell the same dead
 4 or alive, or to sell the eggs of birds in accordance with regulations prescribed by the director.

5 (b) Application for a license under this section shall designate the property whereon the
 6 preserve is to be established. Before the license is issued, the director shall determine that the
 7 property is properly enclosed, that the provisions for housing and sanitation are proper and
 8 adequate, and that the safety of the public is protected.

9 (c) The annual license fee ~~shall be~~ is \$10.

10 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section or other provision of this chapter, this
 11 section does not require an owner of Japanese quail (Coturnix Quail and Button Quail) to obtain
 12 a license under this section to keep them as pets if the quail are not used for commercial
 13 purposes. Occasional sales of three or fewer quail in a calendar year do not qualify as
 14 “commercial purposes” as used in this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow an owner of Japanese quail (Coturnix Quail and Button Quail) to keep them as pets without having to obtain a license for a private game farm.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.