

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 936

Short Title: Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Wray, Faircloth, Moffitt, and J. Bell (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Agriculture, if favorable, Finance.

April 15, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A WILDLIFE POACHER REWARD FUND TO PAY REWARDS
3 TO PERSONS WHO GIVE INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
4 AUTHORITIES THAT RESULTS IN THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSONS
5 WHO COMMIT SERIOUS WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE USE
6 OF COMPENSATION PAID TO THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AS
7 CONDITIONS OF OFFENDERS' PROBATION AS ASSETS OF THE FUND.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** Article 22 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by
10 adding a new section to read:

11 "**§ 113-294.1. Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund.**

12 (a) There is established in the Office of the State Treasurer the Wildlife Poacher
13 Reward Fund. Monies in the Fund shall be used to pay rewards to persons who provide
14 information to the Wildlife Resources Commission or to law enforcement authorities that
15 results in the arrest and conviction of persons who have committed criminal offenses involving
16 the taking, injury, removal, damage, or destruction of wildlife resources. The Wildlife
17 Resources Commission shall establish rules for the administration of the Fund for these
18 purposes.

19 (b) The assets of the Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund shall be derived from the
20 following:

- 21 (1) A percentage of the compensation paid annually to the Commission as
22 special conditions of offenders' probation in criminal cases involving the
23 taking, injury, removal, damage, or destruction of wildlife pursuant to
24 G.S. 15A-1343(b1)(5), to be set by the Commission at not less than ten
25 percent (10%) of those amounts paid as replacement costs and investigative
26 costs.
- 27 (2) All amounts paid to the Commission under G.S. 15A-1343(b1)(5) as
28 compensation for rewards paid from the Fund.
- 29 (3) The proceeds of any gifts, grants, and contributions to the State which are
30 specifically designated for inclusion in the Fund.
- 31 (4) Any other sources specified by law."

32 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 15A-1343(b1) reads as rewritten:

33 "(b1) Special Conditions. – In addition to the regular conditions of probation specified in
34 subsection (b), the court may, as a condition of probation, require that during the probation the
35 defendant comply with one or more of the following special conditions:



1 ...
2 (5) Compensate the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the
3 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, as the case may be, for the
4 replacement costs of any marine and estuarine resources or any wildlife
5 resources which were taken, injured, removed, harmfully altered, damaged
6 or destroyed as a result of a criminal offense of which the defendant was
7 convicted. If any investigation is required by officers or agents of the
8 Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the Wildlife
9 Resources Commission in determining the extent of the destruction of
10 resources involved, the court may include compensation of the agency for
11 investigative costs as a condition of probation. The court may also include,
12 as a condition of probation, compensation of an agency for any reward paid
13 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the offender. This
14 subdivision does not apply in any case governed by G.S. 143-215.3(a)(7).
15"

16 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2013, and
17 applies to persons placed on probation on or after that date. The remainder of this act becomes
18 effective July 1, 2013.