

SENATE BILL 1191

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 4, relative to Class I wildlife in Roane County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

70-4-4__.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "owners of Class I wildlife" means people who own Class I wildlife as classified in § 70-4-403, or who own or operate private sanctuaries or rescue facilities where Class I wildlife are kept.

(b) Notwithstanding any law, or rule or regulation to the contrary, owners of Class I wildlife in Roane County who are not exempt from the permitting requirements of § 70-4-404 shall adhere to the following:

(1) All animals classified as Class I wildlife shall have either global positioning satellite (GPS) enabled collar transmitters attached, or transmitters permanently implanted, for the purpose of tracking the location of the animals. Only veterinarians licensed in accordance with title 63, chapter 12, shall be authorized to implant the transmitters. All veterinary costs for implanting transmitters shall be borne by the owners of Class I wildlife;

(2) Owners of Class I wildlife shall purchase and maintain receivers to receive signals from the transmitters attached to or implanted in the animals. The owners shall also provide the wildlife resources

agency and the appropriate agencies within the local governmental entities where the animals are located with receivers that are identical to the receivers owned by such owners. The owners shall test the receivers to confirm their operational effectiveness before providing them to the agency and local governmental entities; and

(3) Only transmitters and receivers that have been approved by wildlife resources agency biologists shall be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.

(c) The wildlife resources agency shall enforce the requirements of this section, and shall record and store information derived from the tracking of animals until their death or until they are permanently removed from the county. The agency shall submit the information to the appropriate agencies within the local governmental entities where the animals are located.

(d) This section shall not apply in Roane County to:

(1) Specific events that are exempted by the executive director from the caging and handling requirements established for Class I wildlife;

(2) Animal control facilities operated by the county and used for the temporary holding of animals in the interest of public safety;

(3) Institutions operated for the purpose of displaying wildlife to the public; or

(4) Educational venues open to the public.

(e) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For the purposes of promulgating rules and regulations this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, and for all other purposes this act shall take effect December 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.