

SENATE BILL 1238

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 70, Chapter 1, Part 4; Title 70, Chapter 2,
Part 2 and Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to
the extension of hunting and fishing seasons.

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

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

(a)

(1) A person who possesses a valid combination hunting and fishing license issued in this state may apply for a five-day extension of each hunting and fishing season upon the payment of a fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(2) Each application to extend a hunting or fishing season pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) shall be accompanied by an additional fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00) to be used to defray any expenses in the processing of the application.

(b)

(1) The commission shall promulgate rules, in consultation with the agency, to:

(A) Establish a process for a person to apply for the extension;

(B) Set bag and creel limits for the extended seasons;

(C) Designate areas where a person may hunt and fish during the extended seasons; and

(D) Create standards for the disbursement of funds derived from the payment of the fee imposed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1).

(2) The commission may review the fee amounts established pursuant to subsection (a) on an annual basis and may recommend legislation to adjust the fee amounts if necessary.

(3) A person who hunts or fishes during an extended season without paying the fees, or violates any rule promulgated by the commission pursuant to this subsection (b), commits a Class C misdemeanor.

(c)

(1) Notwithstanding § 70-1-401, all proceeds from the payment of fees paid pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) shall be deposited into a special fund separate from the wildlife resources fund and shall be expended to support nonprofit volunteer fire departments in this state, as recognized under § 68-102-304, and used for firefighting purposes only, specifically the purchase of apparatus equipment, the construction or modernization of facilities, or the modification of apparatus equipment in order to comply with National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards. The special fund shall be created within the wildlife resources agency. Amounts within the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund, but shall remain available for the purposes set forth in this section.

(2) All fees paid pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) shall be deposited into the wildlife resources fund.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect October 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.