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LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 979

Introduced by Brandt, 32; DeKay, 40.

Read first time January 12, 2026

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Game and Parks Commission; to amend sections 37-327.01, 37-406, 37-431, 37-484, and 37-1241.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 37-201, 37-247.01, 37-324, 37-415, 37-447, 37-449, 37-450, 37-456.01, and 37-4,111, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 37-327.04, 37-451, and 37-1214, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to redefine a term; to change provisions relating to funds, fees, permits, and floatation devices; to provide for fees for educational programs; to provide a penalty; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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Section 1. Section 37-201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-201 Sections 37-201 to 37-814 and 37-1501 to 37-1510 and sections 6 and 17 of this act and the State Park System Construction Alternatives Act shall be known and may be cited as the Game Law.

Sec. 2. Section 37-247.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-247.01 Wildlife abatement means ~~the use of a trained raptor~~ to frighten, flush, haze, take, or kill certain wildlife to manage depredation, damage, or other threats to human health and safety or commerce caused by such wildlife.

Sec. 3. Section 37-324, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-324 (1) The funds derived from the sale of permits and publications as provided in the Game Law, any unexpended balance now on hand from the sale of hunting, fur-harvesting, and fishing permits, and all money required by the Game Law to be paid into the State Game Fund are hereby appropriated to the use of the commission (a) for the propagation, importation, protection, preservation, and distribution of game and fish and necessary equipment therefor and all things pertaining thereto, (b) for the creation of cash funds under section 37-326, (c) for the administration and enforcement of the State Boat Act, (d) for boating safety educational programs, (e) for the construction and maintenance of boating and docking facilities, navigation aids, and access to boating areas and such other uses which will promote the safety and convenience of the boating public in Nebraska, (f) for abatement ~~payment~~ of ~~claims by landowners in Nebraska for property~~ damage caused by deer, antelope, or elk ~~, if such payment is in compliance with federal laws and regulations~~, and (g) for publishing costs for publications relating to topics listed in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection and other topics of general interest to the state as approved by the commission. An amount

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equal to two dollars from each annual resident fishing permit and two dollars from each combination hunting and fishing permit sold in this state shall be used by the commission for the administration, construction, operation, and maintenance of fish hatcheries and for the distribution of fish.

(2) Expenditures for publications on topics of general interest to the state shall not exceed the income derived from single-copy and subscription sales of commission publications and advertising revenue from such publications.

Sec. 4. Section 37-327.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

37-327.01 (1) The Game Law Investigation Cash Fund is created. The commission shall use the fund for investigations to enforce ~~the purpose of obtaining evidence for enforcement of~~ the Game Law. The fund shall be funded through revenue collected under the Game Law and budgeted or allocated to the fund by the commission, and through donations from persons, wildlife groups, and other charitable sources. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(2) For the purpose of establishing and maintaining legislative oversight and accountability, the commission shall formulate record-keeping procedures for all expenditures, disbursements, and transfers of cash from the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund. Based on these record-keeping procedures, the commission shall prepare and deliver electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature by September 15 of each year a detailed report of the previous fiscal year which includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The June 30 balance in the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund and the amounts delivered to the commission for distribution to agents and informants;

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(b) The ~~the~~ total amount of expenditures;

(c) The ~~the~~ purpose of the expenditures including: (i) Salaries and any expenses of all agents and informants; (ii) front money for wildlife purchases; (iii) type of wildlife and amount purchased; ~~and~~ (iv) amount of front money recovered; (v) investigative vehicles and specialized investigatory equipment; (vi) digital investigative services; and (vii) specialized investigative training;

(d) The ~~the~~ total number of informants on payroll; and

(e) The ~~the~~ results procured through such transactions. Each member of the Legislature shall receive an electronic copy of such report by making a request for it to the secretary of the commission.

(3) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

Sec. 5. Section 37-327.04, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

37-327.04 The Game and Parks Commission Educational Fund is created. The fund shall consist of money credited pursuant to section 60-3,163.02 and section 6 of this act, any gifts, grants, bequests, or other contributions to such fund, and any other money as determined by the Legislature. The commission shall use the fund to provide youth education programs relating to wildlife conservation practices. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 6. The commission may establish and collect reasonable fees for providing programs relating to fish and wildlife education. Fees for providing such programs shall not exceed the costs of staffing and materials for such programs. The proceeds of all such fees shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Game and Parks Commission Educational Fund.

Sec. 7. Section 37-406, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

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amended to read:

37-406 (1) Licenses, permits, and stamps required under the Game Law shall be issued by the commission and may be procured from the secretary of the commission. The commission may provide for the electronic issuance of any license, permit, or stamp required under the Game Law and may enter into contracts to procure necessary services and supplies for the electronic issuance of licenses, permits, and stamps. Except for permits issued under sections 37-462 and 37-463, the commission may provide for the issuance of any license, permit, or stamp required under the Game Law in the form of a number which identifies the holder in the records of the commission. The commission may designate itself and other persons, firms, and corporations as agents to issue licenses, permits, and stamps and collect the prescribed fees. The commission and any person, firm, or corporation authorized by the commission to issue licenses, permits, and stamps shall be entitled to collect and retain an additional fee of not more than <u>four</u> ~~three~~ dollars, for each license, permit, or stamp issued as reimbursement for the clerical work of issuing the license, permit, or stamp and collecting and remitting the fees.

(2) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations regarding electronic issuance of licenses, permits, and stamps, including electronic issuance devices, deposits by agents, and remittance of fees. The commission may provide for the electronic issuance of a license, permit, or stamp by acknowledging the purchase of such license, permit, or stamp without requiring a physical license, permit, or stamp or facsimile of such.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to duplicate any electronically issued license, permit, or stamp. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and shall be fined at least seventy-five dollars, and any license, permit, or stamp involved in such violation shall be confiscated by the court.

Sec. 8. Section 37-415, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

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2024, is amended to read:

37-415 (1) The commission may issue to any Nebraska resident a lifetime fur-harvesting, fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing permit upon application and payment of the appropriate fee. The fee for a resident lifetime fur-harvesting or hunting permit shall not exceed twenty times the annual fee for such permit, as such fees are established by the commission pursuant to section 37-327. The fee for a resident lifetime fishing or combination hunting and fishing permit shall not exceed twenty times the annual fee for such permit ~~permit shall be not more than two hundred ninety-nine dollars, the fee for a resident lifetime hunting permit shall be not more than three hundred ninety-six dollars, the fee for a resident lifetime fishing permit shall be not more than four hundred fifty-seven dollars plus the cost of a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp, and the fee for a resident lifetime combination hunting and fishing permit shall be not more than seven hundred ninety-two dollars~~ plus the cost of a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp, as such fees are established by the commission pursuant to section 37-327. Payment of the fee shall be made in a lump sum at the time of application.

(2) A resident lifetime permit shall not be made invalid by reason of the holder subsequently residing outside the state.

(3) The commission may issue to any nonresident a lifetime fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing permit upon application and payment of the appropriate fee. The fee for a nonresident lifetime hunting permit shall not exceed twenty times the annual fee for such permit, as such fees are established by the commission pursuant to section 37-327. The fee for a nonresident lifetime fishing or combination hunting and fishing permit shall not exceed twenty times the annual fee for such permit ~~be not more than one thousand five hundred sixty-two dollars, the fee for a nonresident lifetime fishing permit shall be not more than one thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars plus the cost of a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp, and the fee for a nonresident lifetime~~

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~~combination hunting and fishing permit shall be not more than two thousand three hundred forty-two dollars~~ plus the cost of a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp, as such fees are established by the commission pursuant to section 37-327. Payment of the fee shall be made in a lump sum at the time of application.

(4) A replacement resident or nonresident lifetime permit may be issued if the original has been lost or destroyed for no additional fee. This subsection applies only to a paper permit and not a commemorative brass plate permit.

(5) The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section and sections 37-416 and 37-417. Such rules and regulations may include, but need not be limited to, establishing fees which vary based on the age of the applicant.

Sec. 9. Section 37-431, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

37-431 (1)(a) The Nebraska Habitat Fund is created. The commission shall remit fees received for annual and multiple-year habitat stamps and annual and multiple-year Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska Habitat Fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. <u>Fees received and income from such investments may be expended by the commission pursuant to section 37-432.</u> ~~Up to twenty-five percent of the annual receipts of the fund may be spent by the commission to provide access to private wildlife lands and habitat areas, and the remainder of the fund shall not be spent until the commission has presented a habitat plan to the Committee on Appropriations of the Legislature for its approval.~~

(b) Fees received for lifetime habitat stamps and lifetime Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps under the Game Law shall be credited to the Nebraska Habitat Fund. Twenty-five percent of the fees for such stamps

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shall not be expended but may be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Income from such investments may be expended by the commission pursuant to section 37-432.

(2)(a) The Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund is created. The commission shall remit fees received for annual and multiple-year aquatic habitat stamps and one dollar of the one-day fishing permit fee as provided in section 37-426 to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Fees received and income from such investments may be expended by the commission pursuant to section 37-432. ~~Up to thirty percent of the annual receipts of the fund may be spent by the commission to provide public waters angler access enhancements and to provide funding for the administration of programs related to aquatic habitat and public waters angler access enhancements, and the remainder of the fund shall not be spent until the commission has presented a habitat plan to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the Legislature for their approval.~~

(b) Fees received for lifetime aquatic habitat stamps shall be credited to the Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund. Twenty-five percent of the fees for such stamps ~~and~~ shall not be expended but may be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Income from such investments may be expended by the commission pursuant to section 37-432.

(3) The secretary of the commission and any county clerk or public official designated to sell habitat stamps, aquatic habitat stamps, or Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps shall be liable upon their official bonds or equivalent commercial insurance policy for failure to remit the money from the sale of the stamps, as required by sections 37-426 to

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37-433, coming into their hands. Any agent who receives stamp fees and who fails to remit the fees to the commission within a reasonable time after demand by the commission shall be liable to the commission in damages for double the amount of the funds wrongfully withheld. Any agent who purposefully fails to remit such fees with the intention of converting them is guilty of theft. The penalty for such violation shall be determined by the amount converted as specified in section 28-518.

Sec. 10. Section 37-447, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-447 (1) The commission may issue permits for the hunting of deer and adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and pass commission orders pursuant to section 37-314 to prescribe limitations for the hunting, transportation, and possession of deer. The commission may offer permits or combinations of permits at temporarily reduced rates for specific events or during specified timeframes. The commission may specify by rule and regulation the information to be required on applications for such permits. Rules and regulations for the hunting, transportation, and possession of deer may include, but not be limited to, rules and regulations as to the type, caliber, and other specifications of firearms and ammunition used and specifications for bows and arrows used. Such rules and regulations may further specify and limit the method of hunting deer and may provide for dividing the state into management units or areas, and the commission may enact different deer hunting regulations for the different management units pertaining to sex, species, and age of the deer hunted.

(2) The number of such permits may be limited as provided by the rules and regulations of the commission, and except as provided in section 37-454, the permits shall be allocated in an impartial manner. Whenever the commission deems it advisable to limit the number of permits issued for any or all management units, the commission shall, by rules and regulations, determine eligibility to obtain such permits. In

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establishing eligibility, the commission may give preference to persons who did not receive a permit or a specified type of permit during the previous year or years.

(3) Such permits may be issued to allow deer hunting in the Nebraska National Forest and other game reserves and such other areas as the commission may designate whenever the commission deems that permitting such hunting will not be detrimental to the proper preservation of wildlife in Nebraska in such forest, reserves, or areas.

(4)(a) The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a nonrefundable application fee of not more than nine ~~seven~~ dollars for deer permits in those management units awarded on the basis of a random drawing. The commission shall, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than fifty ~~thirty-nine~~ dollars for residents and not more than four hundred eighty ~~three hundred sixty-nine~~ dollars for nonresidents for each permit issued under this section except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b) of this subsection and subsection (6) of this section. The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-four dollars for residents and not more than seventy-two dollars for nonresidents for the issuance of a preference point, in addition to any application fee. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing a preference point ~~, in lieu of entering the draw for a deer permit during the application period for the random drawing~~.

(b) The fee for a statewide buck-only permit limited to white-tailed deer shall be no more than two and one-half times the amount of a regular deer permit. The fee for a statewide buck-only deer permit that allows harvest of mule deer shall be no more than five times the amount of a regular deer permit.

(5)(a) The commission may issue nonresident permits after preference has been given for the issuance of resident permits as provided in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission.

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(b) In management units specified by the commission, the commission may issue nonresident permits after resident preference has been provided by allocating at least eighty-five percent of the available permits to residents. The commission may require a predetermined application period for permit applications in specified management units. Such permits shall be issued after a reasonable period for making application, as established by the commission, has expired. When more valid applications are received for a designated management unit than there are permits available, such permits shall be allocated on the basis of a random drawing. All valid applications received during the predetermined application period shall be considered equally in any such random drawing without regard to time of receipt of such applications by the commission.

(6) The commission shall, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-five dollars for residents and not more than forty-five dollars for nonresidents for a youth deer permit.

(7) Any person violating the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated or commission orders passed pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor and shall be fined at least one hundred dollars upon conviction.

Sec. 11. Section 37-449, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-449 (1) The commission may issue permits for hunting antelope and may adopt and promulgate separate and, when necessary, different rules and regulations therefor within the limitations prescribed in sections 37-447 and 37-452 for hunting deer. The commission may offer permits or combinations of permits at reduced rates for specific events or during specified timeframes.

(2) The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a nonrefundable application fee of not more than nine ~~seven~~ dollars for antelope permits in those management units awarded on the basis of a random drawing. The commission shall, pursuant to section

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37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than fifty ~~thirty-nine~~ dollars for residents and not less than three hundred sixty-nine dollars and not more than four hundred eighty ~~not more than two hundred fifty-seven~~ dollars for nonresidents for each permit issued under this section except as provided in subsection (4) of this section. The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-four dollars for residents and not more than seventy-two dollars for nonresidents for the issuance of a preference point, in addition to any application fee. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing a preference point ~~, in lieu of entering the draw for an antelope permit during the application period for the random drawing~~.

(3) The provisions for the distribution of deer permits and the authority of the commission to determine eligibility of applicants for permits as described in sections 37-447 and 37-452 shall also apply to the distribution of antelope permits.

(4) The commission shall, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-five dollars for residents and not more than forty-five dollars for nonresidents for a youth antelope permit.

(5) Any person violating the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor and shall be fined at least one hundred dollars upon conviction.

Sec. 12. Section 37-450, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-450 (1) The commission may issue permits for hunting elk and may adopt and promulgate separate and, when necessary, different rules and regulations therefor within the limitations prescribed in sections 37-447 and 37-452 for hunting deer.

(2) The commission shall, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and

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charge (a) a nonrefundable application fee of not more than twelve dollars for a resident elk permit and not to exceed three times such amount for a nonresident elk permit and (b) a fee of not more than one hundred ninety-eight dollars for each resident elk permit issued and three times such amount for each nonresident elk permit issued. The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-four dollars for residents and not more than seventy-two dollars for nonresidents for the issuance of a preference point or a bonus point, in addition to any application fee. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing a preference point or bonus point ~~, in lieu of entering the draw for an elk permit during the application period for the random drawing~~.

(3) An applicant shall not be issued a resident elk permit that allows the harvest of an antlered elk more than once every five years. A person may only harvest one antlered elk in his or her lifetime except when harvesting an antlered elk with a limited permit to hunt elk pursuant to subdivision (1)(b) of section 37-455 or an auction or lottery permit pursuant to section 37-455.01.

(4) The provisions for the distribution of deer permits and the authority of the commission to determine eligibility of applicants for permits as described in sections 37-447 and 37-452 shall also apply to the distribution of elk permits.

(5) Any person violating the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and shall be fined at least two hundred dollars upon conviction.

Sec. 13. Section 37-451, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

37-451 (1) The commission may issue permits for hunting mountain sheep and may adopt and promulgate separate and, when necessary, different rules and regulations therefor within the limitations

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prescribed in subsection (1) of section 37-447 and section 37-452 for hunting deer. Such rules and regulations shall include provisions allowing persons who find dead mountain sheep, or any part of a mountain sheep, to turn over to the commission such mountain sheep or part of a mountain sheep. The commission may dispose of such mountain sheep or part of a mountain sheep as it deems reasonable and prudent. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the permits shall be issued to residents of Nebraska.

(2) The commission shall, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a nonrefundable application fee of not more than forty-four ~~thirty-four~~ dollars for permits issued only to residents. Any number of resident-only permits, as authorized by the commission, shall be awarded by random drawing to eligible applicants. No permit fee shall be charged in addition to the nonrefundable application fee.

(3) No more than two additional permits may be authorized and issued pursuant to an auction open to residents and nonresidents. The number of such permits shall not exceed the number of those awarded pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The auction shall be conducted according to rules and regulations prescribed by the commission. Any money derived from the sale of permits by auction shall be used only for perpetuation and management of mountain sheep, elk, and deer.

(4) If the commission determines to limit the number of permits issued for any or all management units, the commission shall by rule and regulation determine eligibility requirements for the permits.

(5) A person may obtain only one mountain sheep permit in his or her lifetime, except that an auction permit issued in accordance with subsection (3) of this section to harvest a mountain sheep shall not count against such total.

(6) Any person violating the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and shall be fined at least five hundred dollars upon

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conviction.

Sec. 14. Section 37-456.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-456.01 (1) The commission may issue one free-earned landowner elk permit for the taking of either sex of elk to any person owning or leasing at least eighty acres of farm or ranch land used for agricultural purposes, or to any member of the immediate family of such person as defined in subdivision (2)(a) of section 37-455, when the qualifying number of antlerless elk have been harvested on such land by hunters with a permit issued under section 37-448 or 37-450. Such permit shall be limited to hunting on the lands owned or leased by the qualifying landowner. Receipt of a free-earned landowner elk permit shall not in any way affect a person's eligibility for a permit issued under section 37-450 or 37-455.

(2) The commission may ~~shall~~ adopt and promulgate rules and regulations prescribing issuance of free-earned landowner elk permits, accumulation of antlerless elk harvests, procedures, forms, and requirements for documentation by landowners or lessees as described in subsection (1) of this section to annually report antlerless elk harvested on their property for eligibility, and the number of antlerless elk required to be harvested on such property to qualify for a free-earned landowner elk permit. ~~The number of antlerless elk harvested to qualify shall accumulate each year until such time as a free-earned landowner elk permit is awarded.~~

Sec. 15. Section 37-484, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

37-484 Any person or persons owning, holding, or controlling by lease or otherwise, which possession must be for a term of five or more years, any tract or tracts of land having an area of not less than eighty acres and not more than two thousand five hundred sixty acres who desires to establish a game breeding and controlled shooting area to propagate,

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preserve, and shoot game birds under the regulations as provided in sections 37-484 to 37-496 shall make application to the commission for a license as provided by such sections. Such application shall be made under oath of the applicant or one of its principal officers if the applicant is an association, club, or corporation and shall be accompanied by a license fee of not more than two hundred fifty-eight ~~one hundred ninety-eight~~ dollars, as established by the commission pursuant to section 37-327. Any controlled shooting area existing on February 18, 1987, shall continue in operation on the existing acreage until such controlled shooting area license is not renewed or canceled. If the applicant is an individual, the application shall include the applicant's social security number.

Sec. 16. Section 37-4,111, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

37-4,111 The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the issuance of permits for the taking of paddlefish. The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than thirty-five dollars for residents. The fee for a nonresident permit to take paddlefish shall be two times the resident permit fee. In addition, the commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a nonrefundable application fee of not more than nine ~~seven~~ dollars. The commission may, pursuant to section 37-327, establish and charge a fee of not more than twenty-four dollars for residents and not more than seventy-two dollars for nonresidents for the issuance of a preference point, in addition to any application fee. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing a preference point ~~, in lieu of applying for a paddlefish permit during the application period~~. All fees collected under this section shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the State Game Fund.

Sec. 17. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, trade, import, export, or conspire to

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possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, trade, import, or export any wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or exported in violation of the Game Law.

(2)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this subsection, any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

(b) If the aggregate value of the wildlife possessed, transported, sold, purchased, bartered, traded, imported, or exported, based on the amount of damages prescribed under section 37-613 and the consideration given for such transportation, importation, or exportation exceeds ten thousand dollars within a period of three consecutive years, such person shall be guilty of a Class III felony.

Sec. 18. Section 37-1214, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

37-1214 (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 37-1211, the owner of each motorboat shall register such vessel or renew the registration every three years as provided in section 37-1226. The owner of such vessel shall file an initial application for a certificate of number pursuant to section 37-1216 with a county treasurer on forms approved and provided by the commission. The application shall be signed by the owner of the vessel, shall contain the year manufactured, and shall be accompanied by a registration fee for the three-year period of forty ~~twenty-eight~~ dollars for Class 1 boats, sixty ~~fifty-one~~ dollars for Class 2 boats, eighty ~~seventy-two~~ dollars ~~and fifty cents~~ for Class 3 boats, and one hundred thirty ~~twenty~~ dollars for Class 4 boats. Of each motorboat registration fee, not more than ten dollars may be used for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

(2) The owner of a motorboat not registered in Nebraska shall purchase an aquatic invasive species stamp for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program valid for one calendar year prior to launching into any waters of the state. The cost of such one-year stamp shall be established pursuant to section 37-327 and be not more than thirty dollars plus an

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issuance fee pursuant to section 37-406. Such one-year stamp may be purchased electronically or through any vendor authorized by the commission to sell other permits and stamps issued under the Game Law pursuant to section 37-406. The aquatic invasive species stamp shall be permanently affixed on the starboard and rearward side of the vessel. The proceeds from the sale of stamps shall be remitted to the State Game Fund.

(3) This subsection applies beginning on an implementation date designated by the Director of Motor Vehicles in cooperation with the commission. The director shall designate an implementation date on or before January 1, 2021, for motorboat registration. In addition to the information required under subsection (1) of this section, the application for registration shall contain (a)(i) the full legal name as defined in section 60-468.01 of each owner or (ii) the name of each owner as such name appears on the owner's motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card and (b)(i) the motor vehicle operator's license number or state identification card number of each owner, if applicable, and one or more of the identification elements as listed in section 60-484 of each owner, if applicable, and (ii) if any owner is a business entity, a nonprofit organization, an estate, a trust, or a church-controlled organization, its tax identification number.

Sec. 19. Section 37-1241.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

37-1241.02 (1) A personal watercraft may not be operated on the waters of this state unless each person aboard the personal watercraft is wearing a ~~Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V~~ United States Coast Guard-approved floatation device approved for use on personal watercraft.

(2) Each person operating a personal watercraft on the waters of this state which is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to the operator's person, clothing, or floatation device as appropriate.

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Sec. 20. Original sections 37-327.01, 37-406, 37-431, 37-484, and 37-1241.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 37-201, 37-247.01, 37-324, 37-415, 37-447, 37-449, 37-450, 37-456.01, and 37-4,111, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 37-327.04, 37-451, and 37-1214, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are repealed.