

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1627

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Expanding the existing prohibition on unlawfully entering the land of another to hunt or to retrieve hunted wildlife under Title 77 RCW to include entering the land of another to collect wildlife parts.

Sponsors: Representative Schmick.

House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks

Background:

It is a misdemeanor to hunt on, or retrieve hunted wildlife from, the premises of another if a person knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or on the premises of another for the purpose of hunting wildlife or retrieving hunted wildlife. The following are defenses to a prosecution for unlawfully hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the premises of another:

- The premises were open to the public for hunting purposes, and the actor complied with all lawful conditions imposed on access to or remaining on the premises.
- The actor reasonably believed that the premises' owner—or another person with authority to license access—would have licensed the actor to enter or remain on the premises to hunt wildlife or retrieve hunted wildlife.
- The actor reasonably believed the premises were not privately owned.
- After reasonable attempts to contact the premises' owner, the actor retrieved hunted wildlife for the sole purpose of avoiding wasting fish or wildlife. This defense applies only to the retrieval of hunted wildlife, not to the act of hunting itself.

If a person is found guilty of unlawfully hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the premises of another, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) must revoke all of the person's hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of the person's hunting privileges for two years. The WDFW must seize any wildlife or wildlife parts that were unlawfully hunted or unlawfully retrieved from the premises of another.

Summary:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The existing prohibition on unlawfully hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the premises of another is expanded to include the act of knowingly entering or remaining unlawfully in or on the premises of another for the purpose of collecting wildlife parts. A person charged with unlawfully collecting wildlife parts from the premises of another may assert the same defenses as a person charged with unlawfully hunting wildlife on the premises of another. However, the defense of avoiding wasting fish or wildlife is unavailable to a person charged with unlawfully collecting wildlife parts from the premises of another.

A person convicted of unlawfully collecting wildlife parts from the premises of another will not have any hunting licenses or tags they may possess revoked or have their hunting privileges suspended for two years. The WDFW must seize wildlife parts that were unlawfully collected from the premises of another.

Votes on Final Passage:

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| House | 98 | 0 |
| Senate | 48 | 0 |

Effective: July 24, 2015