

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2063

5 By: Representative Hammer
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
9 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
12 FORCE.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Feral Hog Eradication Task Force.

20 (a) The Feral Hog Eradication Task Force is created.

21 (b) The task force shall be composed of:

22 (1) The Director of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

23 (2) The Secretary of the Arkansas Agriculture Department;

24 (3) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry

25 Commission;

26 (4) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Natural Resources

27 Commission;

28 (5) The Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage;

29 (6) The Director of the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas

30 Economic Development Commission;

31 (7) The Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism; and

32 (8) One (1) representative from each of the following groups:

33 (A) Arkansas Association of Counties;

34 (B) Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts;

35 (C) Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation;

36 (D) Arkansas Forestry Association;



1 (E) Arkansas Pork Producers Association;

2 (F) Nature Conservancy; and

3 (G) Arkansas Dog Hunters Association.

4 (c) The task force may add members to the task force as advisory
 5 members.

6 (d) The Arkansas Agriculture Department shall provide office space,
 7 staff and materials for the task force.

8 (e) The task force shall select from its membership a chair and a vice
 9 chair.

10 (f)(1) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

11 (2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required
 12 for any action of the task force.

13 (g) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be
 14 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

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 16 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Feral Hog Eradication Task Force – Duties.

17 (a) The Feral Hog Eradication Task Force shall report on or before
 18 December 31, 2017, to the cochair of the Legislative Council regarding the
 19 progress of the task force toward completing the project outlined in this
 20 section.

21 (b) The task force shall create a plan for the eradication of feral
 22 hogs in Arkansas.

23 (c) The plan created under this section shall include provisions for:

24 (1) Controlling invasive feral hogs will take a long-term,
 25 cooperative approach with aggressive and effective strategies;

26 (2) Four (4) tenets for effective population reduction and
 27 eradication efforts as the core principles to steer policy and guide the
 28 actions of the partnership, as follows:

29 (A) Developing a multi-partner alliance to identify and
 30 address feral hog issues;

31 (B) Increasing public understanding of the damage and harm
 32 caused by feral hogs;

33 (C) Ensuring that sound regulatory mechanisms and
 34 enforcement capabilities exist to control illegal transport and release of
 35 feral hogs; and

36 (D) Increasing resources for landowners and land managers

1 to control feral hogs;

2 (3) Developing and implementing of effective outreach tools to
 3 disseminate information to the public that defines the problems and issues
 4 associated with feral hogs;

5 (4) Resolving ambiguities among existing statutes regarding
 6 livestock and feral hogs;

7 (5) Appropriating, allocating, identifying, and pursuing known
 8 and alternative funding mechanisms to aid and administer the feral hog
 9 eradication program;

10 (6) Strengthening existing possession and transport laws to
 11 increase penalties for persons convicted of transport and release of feral
 12 hogs;

13 (7) Identifying:

14 (A) Endangered and sensitive species; and

15 (B) Critical, sensitive, or significant habitats, or eco-
 16 regions or counties, that have been damaged or are threatened by the negative
 17 impacts caused by feral hogs; and

18 (8) Developing plans to:

19 (A) Remediate feral hog damage; and

20 (B) Remove feral hogs from feral-hog damaged areas using
 21 collaborative projects, tools, and funding for the benefit of the public and
 22 private lands and native flora and fauna held as public trust within those
 23 areas.

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 25 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration.

26 This act expires on June 30, 2018.