

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

As Engrossed: S3/23/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2063

5 By: Representative Hammer
6 *By: Senator B. Johnson*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
10 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK
15 FORCE.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Feral Hog Eradication Task Force.

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

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

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

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

25 (3) The *Deputy* Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry

26 Commission;

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

28 Commission;

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

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

31 Economic Development Commission;

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

33 (8) *The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture*

34 *Vice-President for Agriculture or his or her designee; and*

35 (9) *One (1) representative from each of the following groups:*

36 (A) Arkansas Association of Counties;



1 (B) Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts;

2 (C) Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation;

3 (D) Arkansas Forestry Association;

4 (E) Arkansas Pork Producers Association;

5 (F) Nature Conservancy; and

6 (G) Arkansas Dog Hunters Association.

7 (c) The task force may add members to the task force as advisory
8 members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (C) Ensuring that sound regulatory mechanisms and

1 enforcement capabilities exist to control illegal transport and release of
2 feral hogs; and

3 (D) Increasing resources for landowners and land managers
4 to control feral hogs;

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

8 (4) Resolving ambiguities among existing statutes regarding
9 livestock and feral hogs;

10 (5) Appropriating, allocating, identifying, and pursuing known
11 and alternative funding mechanisms to aid and administer the feral hog
12 eradication program;

13 (6) Strengthening existing possession and transport laws to
14 increase penalties for persons convicted of transport and release of feral
15 hogs;

16 (7) Identifying:

17 (A) Endangered and sensitive species; and

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

21 (8) Developing plans to:

22 (A) Remediate feral hog damage; and

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

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28 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration.

29 This act expires on June 30, 2018.

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31 */s/Hammer*