

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/CS/SB 1414 — Fish and Wildlife Activities

by Rules Committee; Agriculture Committee; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senator Mayfield

The bill broadens the prohibition on the harassment of hunters, trappers, or fishers to include harassment on any public lands, public waters, or publicly or privately owned wildlife management and fish management areas.

The bill expands the number of free fishing days from 4 to 6.

The bill adds green iguanas and tegu lizards to the conditional nonnative snakes and lizards list and tightens the restrictions on the list from applying to possession of these species for sale or personal use to prohibiting any use except for educational, research, or eradication or control purposes.

The bill authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to grandfather certain persons holding a valid captive wildlife Class III exhibition or sale license to continue to exhibit, sell, or breed green iguanas or tegu lizards commercially as long as the license remains active and is not transferred or lapsed. The bill allows the sale of inventory of the species only outside of the state and prohibits import of the species into the state.

The bill requires FWC to adopt rules to establish reporting requirements, biosecurity measures to prevent the escape of the species, and grandfathering provisions for persons that are currently in possession of green iguanas or tegu lizards who do not qualify for the grandfathering provisions applicable to exhibition, sale, or breeding.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2020.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0