

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 553**

**Representative Jones**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 1533.02 and 1533.111 of the 1  
Revised Code to specify that a fur taker permit 2  
is not required to hunt or trap coyotes and to 3  
specify that there is no closed season for 4  
hunting or trapping coyotes. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 1533.02 and 1533.111 of the 6  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 1533.02.** Fish in the inland and Lake Erie fishing 8  
districts, game birds and game quadrupeds throughout the state, 9  
and fur-bearing animals in the inland and Lake Erie trapping 10  
districts may be taken and possessed only in open season, in 11  
compliance with this section or a division rule, stipulating the 12  
length of fish and the number of fish, game birds, game 13  
quadrupeds, and fur-bearing animals that may be taken. 14

The waters of Lake Erie and the waters, lands, and marshes 15  
included in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Lorain, Cuyahoga, 16  
Lake, and Ashtabula counties constitute the "Lake Erie trapping 17  
district," and all other waters, lands, and marshes within the 18  
state constitute the "inland trapping district." 19

The waters of Lake Erie; the waters of Sandusky bay as far west as a continuation due south to the Sandusky county shore of the section line between sections 23 and 24 in Bay township, Ottawa county, and as far east as a continuation due north of the township line between Perkins and Huron townships, Erie county, indicated by markers which shall be permanently erected on each shore; and the waters of Maumee bay as far south as a line which shall be a continuation due eastward of the section line between sections 16 and 21 in Washington township, Lucas county, indicated by markers which shall be permanently erected on each shore, constitute the "Lake Erie fishing district." All other waters over which the state has jurisdiction, whether lakes, rivers, creeks, or reservoirs or whether natural or artificial, including East Harbor, West Harbor, and Middle Harbor in Ottawa county, and the waters of Ten Mile creek lying within this state constitute the "inland fishing district."

(A) (1) All species or kinds of fish may be taken and possessed only according to the following ~~schedule~~ schedules or as otherwise provided in this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code or by division rule.

	1	2	3	4
A	<u>Inland Fishing District</u>			
B	Name of Fish	Open Season	Minimum Legal <del>Lengths</del> <u>Length in</u> Inches	Daily Bag <del>Limits</del> <u>Limit</u>
C	Muskellunge	No closed season	30	2

D Yellow Pike-perch	No closed season	13	6
E Bluegill	No closed season	5	20
F Rock Bass	No closed season	5	20
G Yellow Perch	No closed season	None	20
H White Bass	No closed season	None	20
I Trout	Apr. 15 - Sept. 15	7	6
J Black Bass	June 16 - Apr. 30	10	6
K Crappie	No closed season		20
L Sunfish	No closed season	None	20
M Catfish	No closed season	None	20

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A

Lake Erie Fishing District

B Name of Fish	Open Season	Minimum Legal <del>Lengths</del> Length in Inches	Daily Bag <del>Limits</del> Limit
C Muskellunge	No closed season	None	None
D Yellow Pike-	No closed season	None	None

perch

E Bluegill	No closed season	5	20
F Rock Bass	No closed season	5	20
G Yellow Perch	No closed season	None	None
H White Bass	No closed season	None	None
I Trout	Apr. 15 - Sept. 15	7	6
J Black Bass	July 1 - May 24	10	6
K Crappie	No closed season		20
L Sunfish	No closed season	None	20
M Catfish	No closed season	None	None

~~Division (A) (7)-(2) As used in division (A) (1) of this section includes:~~ 42  
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~~(a) "Trout" includes brooktrout, rainbow trout, and brown trout.~~ 44  
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~~Division (A) (8) of this section (b) "Black bass" includes largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, and spotted black bass.~~ 46  
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~~Division (A) (9) of this section (c) "Crappie" includes white crappies and black crappies.~~ 49  
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~~Division (A) (10) of this section (d) "Sunfish" includes pumpkinseed sunfish, long-eared sunfish, and green sunfish.~~ 51  
52

~~Division (A) (11) of this section (e) "Catfish" includes~~ 53

channel catfish and shovel head catfish and yellow bullhead, 54  
brown bullhead, and black bullhead. 55

(3) The total daily bag limit throughout the state for the 56  
combined species mentioned in division (A) (1) of this section 57  
shall not exceed twenty-five, and not more than two days' legal 58  
catch of any one species, nor more than fifty of all species 59  
shall be in possession at any one time, except fish allowed to 60  
be taken by commercial fishermen in the Lake Erie fishing 61  
district. 62

(B) All species of game birds and game quadrupeds 63  
throughout the state may be taken and possessed only according 64  
to the following schedule or as otherwise provided in this 65  
chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code, or by division 66  
rule. 67

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1	2	3	4
A Name	Open Season	Bag Limit	Possession Limit
B Pheasant (Cockbirds only)	Nov. 15 - Nov. 30	2	4
C Ruffed Grouse	Nov. 15 - Nov. 30	2	4
D Hungarian Partridge	Nov. 15 - Nov. 30	4	4
E Sharp-tail Grouse	No open season		
F Pinnated Grouse	No open season		

G Woodcock	Oct. 10 - Oct. 24	4	8
H Wilson's or Jack Snipe	Oct. 16 - Dec. 14	15	15
I Rail and Gallinule	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	15	15
J Black-breasted Plover	No open season		
K Golden Plover	No open season		
L Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs	No open season		
M Coot	Oct. 16 - Dec. 14	25	25
N Duck	Oct. 16 - Dec. 14	10	20
O Geese and Brant	Oct. 16 - Dec. 14	3	6
P Hare or Rabbit	Nov. 15 - Jan. 1	4	4
Q Gray, Black, and Fox Squirrel	Sept. 25 - Oct. 10	4	8
R Red or Pine Squirrel	No closed season		
S Ground Hog or Woodchuck	No closed season		
T Deer	No open season		
U Bear	No open season		

(C) All species of fur-bearing animals may be taken and

possessed only according to the following schedule, or as 70  
otherwise provided in this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the 71  
Revised Code or by division rule. 72

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	1	2	3
A Name	Inland Trapping District	Lake Erie Trapping	
	Open Season	District Open Season	
B Mink	Dec. 1 - Jan. 15	Dec. 15 - Mar. 15	
C Weasel	No closed season	No closed season	
D Raccoon	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	
E Skunk	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	
F Opossum	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	Nov. 15 - Jan. 15	
G Muskrat	Dec. 1 - Jan. 15	Dec. 15 - Mar. 15	
H Beaver	No open season	No open season	
I Fox	Nov. 15 - Mar. 1	Nov. 15 - Mar. 1	

The season provided for the taking of fox does not 74  
prohibit the chasing of a fox by dog or on horseback when the 75  
chasing does not result in the killing of the fox. 76

~~This~~ A person may take and possess a coyote year-round, 77  
and the chief of the division of wildlife shall not adopt any 78  
rule to the contrary. 79

This section does not prevent the owner or operator of a 80

farm or enclosure used to breed and raise raccoon, skunk, mink, 81  
muskrat, or opossum from taking or possessing at any time such 82  
fur-bearing animals although the farm or enclosure, in addition 83  
to that use, also is used during the open season for hunting 84  
other game. 85

No person within the state shall buy, sell, expose for 86  
sale, offer for sale, or have in possession for any such purpose 87  
any of the fish, or any part thereof, mentioned in this section, 88  
whether taken within or without the state, except such fish as 89  
are protected by law and taken by licensed commercial 90  
~~fishermen~~fishers in the Lake Erie fishing district and in other 91  
waters wherein fishing with nets is licensed by law. This 92  
section does not prohibit the sale of fish taken by angling in 93  
the Lake Erie fishing district that are of a length provided by 94  
law and permitted to be taken and sold by licensed commercial 95  
~~fishermen~~fishers. No person within the state shall buy, sell, 96  
expose for sale, offer for sale, or have in possession for any 97  
such purpose any game bird or game quadruped, or any part 98  
thereof, whether taken within or without the state. Each such 99  
fish, game bird, or game quadruped, or part thereof, bought, 100  
sold, exposed for sale, offered for sale, or had in possession 101  
for any such purposes contrary to this section or division rule 102  
constitutes a separate offense. 103

No person shall take a hare or rabbit, within the state, 104  
through the use of a ferret, or place a ferret in any hole or 105  
opening in the ground, a stone wall, a log, or elsewhere outside 106  
a building, in which a hare or rabbit might be confined, or have 107  
a ferret in possession or under control while hunting, going 108  
hunting, or returning from hunting. Each hare or rabbit caught, 109  
killed, or had in possession contrary to this section 110  
constitutes a separate offense. This section does not prevent 111



the owner of a young fruit orchard or nursery or ~~his~~the owner's 112  
tenant or bona fide employee from possessing a ferret or using a 113  
ferret in any manner to take or kill rabbits or hares when they 114  
are doing actual and substantial damage to ~~his~~the fruit trees or 115  
nursery stock. 116

The possession of the hide, skin, or pelt of a wild bird 117  
or wild quadruped during the closed seasons is prima-facie 118  
evidence that it was illegally taken unless the possessor can 119  
show an original invoice signed by a shipper that the hide, 120  
skin, or pelt was shipped from without the state or furnish 121  
satisfactory proof that it was legally taken or acquired. 122

(D) No person shall take a wild bird or wild quadruped 123  
from its nest, house, den, or burrow, or destroy such a nest, 124  
house, den, or burrow, or with a spear hunt, pursue, injure, or 125  
kill any wild bird or wild quadruped except as otherwise 126  
provided in this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code or 127  
by division rule. Each wild bird or wild quadruped or each hide, 128  
skin, or pelt of any such wild bird or wild quadruped, or part 129  
thereof, taken or had in possession contrary to this section 130  
constitutes a separate offense. 131

**Sec. 1533.111.** (A) Except as provided in this section or 132  
division (A) (2) of section 1533.12 of the Revised Code, no 133  
person shall hunt or trap fur-bearing animals on land of another 134  
without first obtaining some type of an annual fur taker permit. 135

(B) (1) Except as otherwise provided in rules adopted under 136  
division (B) of section 1533.12 of the Revised Code, each 137  
applicant for a fur taker permit or an apprentice fur taker 138  
permit shall pay an annual fee for each annual permit in 139  
accordance with the following schedule: 140

		141
	1	2
A	Fur taker permit	\$14.00
B	Apprentice fur taker permit	\$14.00
C	Senior fur taker permit - resident only	\$7.00
D	Apprentice senior fur taker permit - resident only	\$7.00
E	Special youth fur taker permit	\$7.00
F	Apprentice youth fur taker permit	\$7.00
	(2) As used in division (B) (1) of this section:	142
	(a) "Youth" means an applicant who is under the age of	143
	eighteen years at the time of application for a permit.	144
	(b) "Senior" means an applicant who is sixty-six years of	145
	age or older at the time of application for a permit.	146
	(C) Each type of fur taker permit is valid during the	147
	hunting license year in which the permit is purchased. The money	148
	received shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of	149
	the fund established in section 1533.15 of the Revised Code.	150
	Apprentice fur taker permits and apprentice youth fur taker	151
	permits are subject to the requirements established under	152
	section 1533.102 of the Revised Code and rules adopted pursuant	153
	to it.	154
	(D) (1) No person shall issue a fur taker permit to an	155
	applicant unless it is accompanied by a written explanation of	156
	the law in section 1533.17 of the Revised Code and the penalty	157
	for its violation, including a description of terms of	158

imprisonment and fines that may be imposed. 159

(2) No person shall issue a fur taker permit, other than 160  
an apprentice fur taker permit or an apprentice youth fur taker 161  
permit, to an applicant unless the applicant presents to the 162  
agent authorized to issue a fur taker permit a previously held 163  
hunting license or trapping or fur taker permit or evidence of 164  
having held such a license or permit in content and manner 165  
approved by the chief of the division of wildlife, a certificate 166  
of completion issued upon completion of a trapper education 167  
course approved by the chief, or evidence of equivalent training 168  
in content and manner approved by the chief. A previously held 169  
apprentice hunting license, apprentice fur taker permit, or 170  
apprentice youth fur taker permit does not satisfy the 171  
requirement concerning the presentation of a previously held 172  
hunting license or fur taker permit or evidence of such a 173  
license or permit. 174

(3) No person shall issue a fur taker permit, other than 175  
an apprentice fur taker permit or an apprentice youth fur taker 176  
permit, to any person who fails to present the evidence required 177  
by this section. No person shall purchase or obtain a fur taker 178  
permit, other than an apprentice fur taker permit or an 179  
apprentice youth fur taker permit, without presenting to the 180  
issuing agent the evidence required by this section. Issuance of 181  
a fur taker permit in violation of the requirements of this 182  
section is an offense by both the purchaser of the illegally 183  
obtained permit and the clerk or agent who issued the permit. 184  
Any fur taker permit issued in violation of this section is 185  
void. 186

(E) The chief, with approval of the wildlife council, 187  
shall adopt rules prescribing a trapper education course for 188

first-time fur taker permit buyers, other than buyers of 189  
apprentice fur taker permits or apprentice youth fur taker 190  
permits, and for volunteer instructors. The course shall consist 191  
of subjects that include, but are not limited to, trapping 192  
techniques, animal habits and identification, trapping tradition 193  
and ethics, the trapper and conservation, the law in section 194  
1533.17 of the Revised Code along with the penalty for its 195  
violation, including a description of terms of imprisonment and 196  
fines that may be imposed, and other law relating to trapping. 197  
Authorized personnel of the division of wildlife or volunteer 198  
instructors approved by the chief shall conduct the courses with 199  
such frequency and at such locations throughout the state as to 200  
reasonably meet the needs of permit applicants. The chief shall 201  
issue a certificate of completion to each person who 202  
successfully completes the course and passes an examination 203  
prescribed by the chief. 204

(F) Every person, while hunting or trapping fur-bearing 205  
animals on lands of another, shall carry the person's fur taker 206  
permit with the person's signature written on the permit. 207  
Failure to carry such a signed permit constitutes an offense 208  
under this section. The chief shall adopt any additional rules 209  
the chief considers necessary to carry out this section. 210

(G) An owner who is a resident of this state or an owner 211  
who is exempt from obtaining a hunting license under section 212  
1533.10 of the Revised Code and the children of the owner of 213  
lands in this state may hunt or trap fur-bearing animals thereon 214  
without a fur taker permit. If the owner of land in this state 215  
is a limited liability company or a limited liability 216  
partnership that consists of three or fewer individual members 217  
or partners, as applicable, an individual member or partner who 218  
is a resident of this state and the member's or partner's 219

children of any age may hunt or trap fur-bearing animals on the 220  
land owned by the limited liability company or limited liability 221  
partnership without a fur taker permit. In addition, if the 222  
owner of land in this state is a trust that has a total of three 223  
or fewer trustees and beneficiaries, an individual who is a 224  
trustee or beneficiary and who is a resident of this state and 225  
the individual's children of any age may hunt or trap fur- 226  
bearing animals on the land owned by the trust without a fur 227  
taker permit. The tenant and children of the tenant may hunt or 228  
trap fur-bearing animals on lands where they reside without a 229  
fur taker permit. 230

(H) A fur taker permit is not transferable. No person 231  
shall carry a fur taker permit issued in the name of another 232  
person. 233

(I) A fur taker permit entitles a nonresident to take from 234  
this state fur-bearing animals taken and possessed by the 235  
nonresident as provided by law or division rule. 236

(J) A fur taker permit is not required to hunt or trap 237  
coyotes. 238

**Section 2.** That existing sections 1533.02 and 1533.111 of 239  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 240