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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

H.B. 553  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Jones

Amanda George Goodman, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Codifies current Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) hunting and trapping rules regarding coyotes by doing both of the following:
  - Specifying that a fur taker permit is not required to hunt or trap coyotes; and
  - Specifying that there is no closed season for hunting or trapping coyotes.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill allows a person to hunt or trap a coyote without obtaining a fur taker permit. It also allows a person to take and possess a coyote year-round,<sup>1</sup> and prohibits the Chief of the Division of Wildlife from adopting any rule to the contrary.<sup>2</sup> These provisions codify the current rules adopted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), which specify that a person need not obtain a fur taker permit to take coyotes<sup>3</sup> and allow a person to take and possess coyotes year-round.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Fur taker permit not needed to take coyotes**

Under current law, a coyote is considered a “fur-bearing animal.” Other fur-bearing animals include minks, weasels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, muskrats, fox, beavers, badgers, otters, and bobcats.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 1533.02(C) and 1533.111(J).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 1533.02(C).

<sup>3</sup> Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 1501:31-15-09(O).

<sup>4</sup> O.A.C. 1501:31-15-17(J).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 1531.01(W), not in the bill.

Unless explicitly exempted, a person must obtain a fur taker permit from the ODNR to hunt or trap fur-bearing animals.<sup>6</sup> The Ohio Revised Code currently does not provide for an exemption for hunting or trapping coyotes without a permit. However, rules adopted by ODNR specify that a person need not obtain a fur taker permit to take coyotes.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, the bill codifies ODNR's current policy.<sup>8</sup>

## Open season for coyotes

Current law specifies the dates during which a person may take various fur-bearing animals, but does not specify dates for taking coyotes. When no dates are specified, Ohio law allows ODNR to adopt rules to create a hunting or trapping season. Currently, ODNR's rules allow a person to hunt and trap coyotes year-round.<sup>9</sup> The bill (1) codifies ODNR's current policy and (2) prevents ODNR from adopting rules to the contrary.<sup>10</sup>

## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-16-20

H0553-I-133/ts

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 1533.111(A).

<sup>7</sup> O.A.C. 1501:31-15-09(O).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 1533.111(J).

<sup>9</sup> O.A.C. 1501:31-15-17(J).

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 1533.02.