

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 83

An Act to amend and reenact § 29.1-539 of the Code of Virginia, relating to claiming deer, bear, turkey, or elk struck by motor vehicle.

[H 1025]

Approved March 14, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 29.1-539 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 29.1-539. Claiming deer, bear, turkey, or elk struck by motor vehicle.

A. Any person driving a motor vehicle who collides with a deer ~~or~~, bear, turkey, or elk or who discovers a deer, bear, turkey, or elk that has been killed in a collision with a motor vehicle may, upon compliance with the provisions of this section and at any time of year, ~~keep the deer or bear~~ claim such animal for his own use as if the animal had been killed by that person during hunting season for the animal.

B. Any person so killing any deer ~~or~~, bear, turkey, or elk or who discovers a deer, bear, turkey, or elk that has been killed in a collision with a motor vehicle shall immediately report the accident to ~~the~~ a conservation police officer or other law-enforcement officer of the county or city where the accident occurred. The conservation police officer or other law-enforcement officer shall view ~~the deer or bear~~ such animal and if he believes that ~~the deer or bear~~ such animal was killed by ~~the~~ a collision with ~~the~~ a motor vehicle or injured to such an extent as to require its death, he shall award the animal to the person claiming ~~the deer or bear~~, it and shall give the person a ~~certificate to that effect on forms furnished by the Department~~ call for service number or a report number.

C. If any person driving a motor vehicle who collides with a deer, bear, turkey, or elk, or person who discovers a deer, bear, turkey, or elk that has been killed in a collision with a motor vehicle, does not claim such animal, a conservation police officer or other law-enforcement officer may award such animal to any other person who wishes to claim it pursuant to this section.