

HOUSE BILL No. 1407

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-8-2-82.5; IC 14-22-6-17.

Synopsis: Hunting and trapping of bobcats. Establishes a bobcat hunting and trapping season in an eligible county. Requires the director of the department of natural resources (director) to establish and implement a program under which a bobcat may be taken in an eligible county. Establishes the requirements of the program, including the director's authority not to open a bobcat hunting and trapping season in an eligible county.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

Lindauer, Bacon

January 14, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1407

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-82.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2019]: **Sec. 82.5. "Eligible county", for purposes of IC 14-22-6-17**
4 **has the meaning set forth in IC 14-22-6-17(b).**

5 SECTION 2. IC 14-22-6-17 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
6 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
7 1, 2019]: **Sec. 17. (a) This section applies only in a county where the**
8 **department has received reports of more than thirty (30) bobcat**
9 **sightings in two (2) consecutive calendar years beginning January**
10 **1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2018.**

11 **(b) As used in this section, "eligible county" refers to a county**
12 **described in subsection (a).**

13 **(c) Subject to subsection (f), beginning after June 30, 2019, there**
14 **is established a bobcat hunting and trapping season in an eligible**
15 **county.**

16 **(d) The director shall establish and implement a program under**
17 **which an individual who is:**



1 (1) licensed under IC 14-22; or
2 (2) exempt from the licensing requirements established under
3 IC 14-22, as provided in IC 14-22-11-1;
4 may hunt or trap a bobcat in an eligible county.

5 (e) The program established by the director under this section
6 shall include the following:

7 (1) The duration of the bobcat hunting and trapping season,
8 which includes the director's authority to shorten the season
9 for any of the reasons referred to in subsection (f).

10 (2) The number of bobcats that an individual may take during
11 a bobcat hunting and trapping season.

12 (3) A quota for bobcats that may be taken during a bobcat
13 hunting and trapping season established by this section.

14 (4) Procedures for an individual who hunts or traps a bobcat
15 to report the individual's taking of a bobcat to the
16 department.

17 (5) Criteria to add or remove a county from the list of eligible
18 counties.

19 (6) Any other provision in the director's discretion that is
20 required to administer the bobcat hunting and trapping
21 season established by this section.

22 (f) The director is not required to open a bobcat hunting and
23 trapping season described in subsection (c) in an eligible county if
24 the director makes a determination that opening of the season is
25 not warranted because of any of the following reasons:

26 (1) Public safety.

27 (2) Wildlife management.

28 (3) Conservation best practices.

29 (4) Any other reason the director determines does not
30 warrant the opening of the season.

