

HB15 ENROLLED



1 HB15
2 C5KAWJW-2
3 By Representative Lipscomb
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
6 PFD: 01-Dec-23



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1 Enrolled, An Act

2
3 Relating to natural resources; to require the
4 Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural
5 Resources to issue a permit for the introduction of black bass
6 into the Coosa River when certain requirements are satisfied.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. (a) The Commissioner of the Department of
9 Conservation and Natural Resources shall issue a permit to a
10 municipality or private entity associated with fishing or
11 conservation that allows the introduction and placement of
12 black bass into the Coosa River if all of the following are
13 satisfied:

14 (1) The municipality or private entity obtains the
15 black bass from a fish hatchery located in this state which is
16 approved by the department.

17 (2) The only black bass that will be introduced or
18 placed into the Coosa River are the Northern Largemouth Bass
19 (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) subspecies, the Florida Bass
20 (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) subspecies, or a first
21 generation offspring of these two subspecies.

22 (3) The municipality or private entity bears all costs
23 associated with the purchase, transport, and introduction of
24 the black bass.

25 (b) The commissioner, under his or her authority
26 granted in Sections 9-2-2 and 9-2-7, Code of Alabama 1975, may
27 deny a permit as provided for in this section due to
28 environmental, pathogenic, or biological factors or for the



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29 protection of public health and welfare.

30 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
31 commissioner from issuing permits for the introduction and
32 placement of other subspecies of black bass into segments of
33 the Coosa River when the commissioner determines that the
34 introduction and placement of those subspecies is appropriate
35 for the fishery.

36 (d) The Department of Conservation and Natural
37 Resources shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this
38 section.

39 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2024.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 20-Feb-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

09-Apr-24

Passed