

SENATE BILL NO. 312—SENATORS HANSEN, TITUS,
GOICOECHEA; AND SCHEIBLE

MARCH 20, 2023

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to wildlife.
(BDR 45-743)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to wildlife; authorizing a person who discovers the carcass of a big game mammal to report the location of the carcass to the Department of Wildlife and request that the antlers and horns be donated to a nonprofit organization for display, raffle or auction; authorizing a person to take or gather shed antlers and heads with antlers attached for certain purposes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law prohibits: (1) the sale, barter, trade or purchase of any species of wildlife, or parts thereof, except as provided by law or a regulation of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners; and (2) the possession of any species of wildlife, or parts thereof, for which tags are required, without an attached or validated tag. (NRS 501.379, 502.150) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes a person who discovers the carcass of a big game mammal that appears to have died as a result of any cause other than hunting or the intentional killing of the big game mammal to report the location of the carcass to the Department of Wildlife and submit a request that the antlers and horns of the big game mammal be donated to a designated nonprofit organization. If the Department approves such a request, the nonprofit organization may display, raffle or auction the antlers and horns.

Section 1 requires the Commission to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of **section 1**.

Existing law requires the Commission to adopt regulations for the taking of shed antlers. (NRS 503.655) Existing regulation prohibits the taking or gathering of shed antlers from or on public land in certain counties at any time between January 1 to April 30. (NAC 503.172) **Section 2** of this bill instead authorizes a



18 person to take or gather shed antlers and heads with antlers attached for personal,
19 noncommercial use. **Section 3** of this bill declares the existing regulation void.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 503 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. If a person discovers the carcass of a big game mammal*
4 *that appears to have died from a cause other than hunting or the*
5 *intentional killing of the big game mammal, the person may report*
6 *the location of the carcass to the Department and submit a request*
7 *that the antlers and horns of the big game mammal be donated to*
8 *a nonprofit organization designated by the person.*

9 *2. Following any necessary investigation into the cause of*
10 *death of the big game mammal and whether the carcass of the big*
11 *game mammal is diseased, the Department shall review a request*
12 *submitted pursuant to subsection 1. The Department may grant*
13 *the request in accordance with any regulations adopted by the*
14 *Commission pursuant to subsection 4.*

15 *3. A nonprofit organization that receives a donation of the*
16 *antlers and horns of a big game mammal pursuant to this section*
17 *may:*

18 *(a) Display the antlers and horns; or*

19 *(b) Raffle or auction the antlers and horns,*

20 *↳ as a stand-alone item or as a part of a piece of furniture.*

21 *4. The Commission shall adopt regulations necessary to carry*
22 *out the provisions of this section.*

23 **Sec. 2.** NRS 503.655 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 503.655 1. ~~The Commission shall adopt regulations for the~~
25 ~~taking of shed antlers.]~~ *A person may take or gather shed antlers*
26 *and heads with antlers attached for personal, noncommercial use.*

27 2. As used in this section, “shed antlers” means antlers which
28 have been naturally shed by any big game mammal in this State.

29 **Sec. 3.** The regulation adopted by the Board of Wildlife
30 Commissioners pursuant to NRS 503.655 which is codified as NAC
31 503.172 is hereby declared void. In preparing the supplements to the
32 Nevada Administrative Code on or after January 1, 2024, the
33 Legislative Counsel shall remove that regulation.

34 **Sec. 4.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and
35 approval.

36 2. Sections 2 and 3 of this act become effective on July 1,
37 2023.

38 3. Section 1 of this act becomes effective:



- 1 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
2 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
3 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
4 (b) On January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.



