

H4 Proposed Regulation

Implement as permanent rule, changes in the rule regulating importation of cervid carcass and carcass parts to prohibit importation from any location outside of North Carolina, except as specified.

Justification

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a highly infectious, fatal, neurological disease affecting the Cervidae family, which includes all North American species of deer. The source of the disease is an abnormal type of protein that collects in the animal's brain. CWD spreads through animal-to-animal contact as well as contact with infected carcasses and contaminated soils and plants. In May 2006, the Commission limited the importation of hunter-killed cervids from CWD-positive states, provinces, or countries. Currently, 25 states and three Canadian provinces are positive for CWD, and 13 states prohibit the transportation of all cervid carcass and carcass parts originating outside their state borders with exceptions such as deboned meat, clean skull plates, and caped hides.

This proposal will replace the temporary rule adopted in July 2018 to regulate the importation, transportation, or possession of any cervid carcass or carcass parts originating from outside North Carolina.

Based on this proposal, no cervid carcass or carcass part from outside North Carolina, except for South Carolina (as described below), could be imported, transported, or possessed in North Carolina except for deboned meat, caped hides, finished taxidermy products, and cleaned skull plates, antlers, jawbones and teeth. In addition, all parts must be labeled or identified with the individual's name and address, origin of the cervid, date the cervid was killed, and the individual's hunting license number, permit number, or equivalent identification.

All of the above criteria shall be in effect for South Carolina, except, caped hides with only the head attached may be imported from South Carolina if it is delivered to a licensed taxidermist within 24 hours of entering North Carolina. The caped hide and head must be double plastic bagged and labeled with the hunter's identifying information and the county in which the deer was killed. This provision will expire on August 1, 2020 or upon confirmation of CWD in a cervid from South Carolina, whichever comes first. This proposal is necessary to protect North Carolina's deer herd by reducing the risk of introduction of CWD into the state.