

HB 647 -- DEER HUNTING

SPONSOR: Young

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill allows a person who owns, controls, or harbors a dog that is maintained on a leash at all times to use the dog to track a deer that has been shot by a person engaged in lawful hunting.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows the limited use of a dog to track deer that have been injured during lawful hunting. Oftentimes, a hunter will injure a deer, and the deer will travel a long distance before falling or dying. The bill will allow the hunter to find the deer quicker and limit the suffering of the animal.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Young; and Pat Pryor.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the legislation is unnecessary. Conservation personnel can currently authorize a person to use a dog for tracking purposes.

Testifying against the bill was Department of Conservation.