

HCS HB 508 -- FERAL SWINE (Rone)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy

This bill removes sheep from the certain provisions of law relating to restraining and providing notice to the owner of animals running at large and clarifies that the provisions apply to domestic swine.

Currently, any person who knowingly or recklessly releases any swine to live in the wild or possesses or transports certain live wild boar without a permit from the Department of Agriculture is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This bill changes the penalties to a class E felony.

The bill also changes the term "feral hog" to "feral swine" and specifies that any person who kills a feral swine outside without the consent of the landowner or not in compliance with certain requirements is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also repeals the requirements for the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules relating to fencing and health standards for certain wild boar and swine held on private property.

This bill is similar to HB 1798 (2020).