

HB 589-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0769

08/09

HOUSE BILL ***589-FN***

AN ACT defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests.

SPONSORS: Rep. Schultz, Merr. 29; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

COMMITTEE: Fish and Game and Marine Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill defines and prohibits wanton animal waste and prohibits certain wildlife hunting contests.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraph; Wanton Waste; Definition. Amend RSA 207:1 by inserting after paragraph
2 XXIX the following new paragraph:

3 XXIX-a. Wanton waste: The act of intentionally leaving a wounded or killed animal in the
4 field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and render it for consumption or use.
5 "Wanton waste" shall not apply to animals that are diseased, and thus unfit for consumption or use,
6 or grossly mutilated, and thus rendered unfit for consumption or use, nor to animals on privately
7 owned property taken in the defense of person or property under RSA 207:26 or RSA 207:30.

8 2 New Section; General Fish and Game Provisions; Wanton Waste. Amend RSA 207 by
9 inserting after section 3-e the following new section:

10 207:3-f Wanton Waste.

11 I. No person shall commit wanton waste of a wild animal that has been wounded or killed by
12 that person while hunting. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a violation.

13 II. This section shall not abridge enforcement actions taken pursuant to RSA 212-A, RSA
14 207:5, or RSA 211:1. This section shall not apply to wildlife conservation officers, licensed trappers
15 for removal of nuisance animals, persons acting under a pre-damage kill permit, persons acting
16 under a depredation permit, persons acting for scientific purposes under a scientific permit, or
17 persons acting pursuant to RSA 207:22-c, III or RSA 206:26.

18 III. The executive director shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, regarding the
19 applicability of this section to hunting and fishing in the state.

20 3 New Section; Wildlife Killing Contests Prohibited. Amend RSA 208 by inserting after section
21 1-e the following new section:

22 208:1-f Wildlife Killing Contests Prohibited.

23 I. No person shall organize, promote, solicit participation in, or participate in any contest
24 that is created specifically for participants to take any wildlife species whose seasons or bag limits
25 are regulated by the fish and game commission. In this section, "contest" means any organized or
26 sponsored competition consisting of 2 or more persons where prizes of cash, goods, or other
27 inducements are awarded for taking of individuals of any covered species.

28 II. This section shall not apply to any lawful manner of taking, open season time limits,
29 permitted scientific investigations, or wildlife management practices authorized under title XVIII or
30 administrative rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A.

HB 589-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 III. This section shall not apply to contests comparing sizes and other metrics of registered
2 white tail deer and wild turkeys for the purpose of ranking those harvested each year.

3 IV. This section shall not apply to fishing derbies which have been permitted by the fish and
4 game commission.

5 V. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

6 VI. The executive director shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A, to implement this
7 section.

8 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

**HB 589-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
Expenditures*	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill *Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
County Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Expenditures	Indeterminable			
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	Indeterminable			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf.

The Fish and Game Department states this bill could result in increased enforcement activities, however it would likely be accomplished within its normal budgeted amounts.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, Fish and Game Department, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association