

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 671**

Introduced by Chambers, 11.

Read first time January 08, 2014

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Game Law; to amend sections 37-452 and  
2 37-559, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to  
3 eliminate provisions relating to the hunting of mountain  
4 lions; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original  
5 sections; to outright repeal sections 37-472 and 37-473,  
6 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; and to  
7 declare an emergency.  
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 37-452, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3           37-452 (1) No person shall hunt antelope, elk, or  
4 mountain sheep, ~~or mountain lions~~ unless such person is at least  
5 twelve years of age, and any person who is twelve through fifteen  
6 years of age shall only hunt antelope, elk, or mountain sheep, ~~or~~  
7 ~~mountain lions~~ when supervised by a person nineteen years of age or  
8 older having a valid hunting permit.

9           (2) No person shall hunt deer unless such person is at  
10 least ten years of age, and any person who is ten through fifteen  
11 years of age shall only hunt deer when supervised by a person  
12 nineteen years of age or older having a valid hunting permit.

13           (3) A person nineteen years of age or older having a  
14 valid hunting permit shall not supervise more than two persons while  
15 hunting deer, antelope, elk, or mountain sheep, ~~or mountain lions~~ at  
16 the same time.

17           Sec. 2. Section 37-559, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
18 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

19           37-559 (1) Any farmer or rancher owning or operating a  
20 farm or ranch may destroy or have destroyed any predator preying on  
21 livestock or poultry or causing other agricultural depredation on  
22 land owned or controlled by him or her without a permit issued by the  
23 commission. For purposes of this subsection, predator means a badger,  
24 bobcat, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, opossum, raccoon,  
25 red fox, or skunk.

1           ~~(2) Any farmer or rancher owning or operating a farm or~~  
2 ~~ranch, or his or her agent, may kill a mountain lion immediately~~  
3 ~~without prior notice to or permission from the commission if he or~~  
4 ~~she encounters a mountain lion and the mountain lion is in the~~  
5 ~~process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on the farmer's~~  
6 ~~or rancher's property. The farmer or rancher or his or her agent~~  
7 ~~shall be responsible for immediately notifying the commission and~~  
8 ~~arranging with the commission to transfer the mountain lion to the~~  
9 ~~commission.~~

10           ~~(3) Any person shall be entitled to defend himself or~~  
11 ~~herself or another person without penalty if, in the presence of such~~  
12 ~~person, a mountain lion stalks, attacks, or shows unprovoked~~  
13 ~~aggression toward such person or another person.~~

14           ~~(4)~~(2) This section shall not be construed to allow a  
15 farmer or rancher or his or her agent to destroy or have destroyed  
16 species which are protected by the Nongame and Endangered Species  
17 Conservation Act or rules and regulations adopted and promulgated  
18 under the act, the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as  
19 amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., the federal Fish and Wildlife  
20 Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., the federal Bald  
21 and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.,  
22 the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 703 et  
23 seq., or federal regulations under such federal acts.

24           Sec. 3. Original sections 37-452 and 37-559, Revised  
25 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, are repealed.

1                   Sec. 4. The following sections are outright repealed:  
2 Sections 37-472 and 37-473, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2012.

4                   Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
5 when passed and approved according to law.