

AN ACT relating to proxy hunting for disabled hunters.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Proxy harvest tag" means any document, including ticket or stamp, as required by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in order to harvest one (1) antlerless white-tailed deer per tag; and

(b) "Proxy hunter" means a Kentucky resident who has registered with the department to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer on behalf of a disabled resident hunter using that disabled hunter's proxy harvest tag.

(2) The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources shall initiate a pilot program no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the effective date of this Act to establish a proxy hunter program for disabled hunters with a permanent total impairment. The pilot program shall expire no later than July 15, 2017. The pilot program for proxy hunting shall establish, at minimum, a method for:

(a) Applying for the program by the disabled hunter;

(b) Proving the disability status of the disabled hunter;

(c) Establishing a registry and qualifications of persons applying to be a proxy hunter for a disabled hunter;

(d) Establishing a method for the proxy hunter to obtain and use the proxy harvest tag to take antlerless white-tailed deer and imposing hunting requirements on the proxy hunter; and

(e) Setting a fee for the application and issuance of a proxy harvest tag.

(3) The proxy hunter program shall allow a licensed resident hunter to serve as a proxy hunter and take one (1) antlerless white-tailed deer on behalf of a disabled licensed resident hunter if:

(a) Both the proxy hunter and the disabled hunter possess a valid state hunting license;

(b) The disabled hunter has applied for a proxy harvest tag, ticket, or stamp or any other document that is a condition of taking antlerless white-tailed deer as required by the department;

(c) The proxy hunter abides by all state and federal laws and regulations governing the season, bag limit, and method of take for the antlerless white-tailed deer;

(d) The disabled resident hunter has permanent total impairment, as verified on a doctor's statement or by a governmental agency that verifies disability status;

(e) The proxy hunter registers with the department and has not been found guilty of violating any state or federal fish and wildlife laws; and

(f) The proxy hunter has not served as a proxy for a disabled hunter more than five (5) times.

(4) Proxy hunters shall not be eligible to use a landowner tag and shall be allowed to take one (1) antlerless deer for proxy harvest tag.

(5) A proxy harvest tag shall not entitle the proxy hunter to keep any part of the harvested game, edible or inedible, for himself or herself. All parts of the harvested game shall be donated or turned over to the disabled resident hunter.