

Bill No.: HB0271 **Effective:** Immediately

LSO No.: 17LSO-0466

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0091

Chapter No.: [Chapter Number_RO]

Prime Sponsor: Harshman

Catch Title: Game bird farms-greater sage grouse.

Subject: Authorizing game bird farms to possess, propagate, breed, sell, raise and release greater sage grouse and modifying other game bird farm laws.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This bill provides a certification process by which licensed game bird farms may receive a certificate from the Game and Fish Department to possess live greater sage grouse and propagate, breed, sell, raise and release the same.
- The bill specifies criteria which must be met to qualify for a certificate, including having successfully raised at least two other species of game birds from eggs or chicks, and having an adequate enclosure and vegetation for sage grouse.
- The certificate is renewable annually upon demonstration of meeting other criteria, including being free of avian influenza.
- The bill allows the taking of sage grouse within the boundaries of the game bird farm.
- The bill authorizes the gathering of sage grouse eggs under supervision of a wildlife biologist and in coordination with the Game and Fish Department. The bill provides limits on the number of eggs gathered, nesting sites disturbed and months in which eggs may be collected.
- The bill provides for suspension and revocation of certificates and for forfeiture of sage grouse upon revocation of a certificate.
- Certificates under the new provision expire on December 31, 2022.
- The bill makes other changes to game bird farm laws in conformance with the sage grouse provisions and in addition to those provisions dealing with sage grouse.
- Game and Fish Department rules are to provide additional limitations and for administration of the new law. Rules are to be finalized by September 1, 2017.

Comments:

- Creates/amends a major program – creates a certification process for sage grouse propagation on game bird farms.

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