

057 H 2. 2013

Title: White Deer Protection

The Problem:

White and albino deer may be hunted in CWD zones despite current legislation that protects them in the rest of the state. Because of their rarity and uniqueness there is always an added incentive for a hunter to harvest and sell these deer for a profit.

The current legislative language defining "white deer" is too extreme. If there is even a very small amount of brown color –outside of the head, hooves, or tarsal glands– they may be harvested.

The penalty for shooting them during the season is a civil forfeiture (like a parking ticket) that does not go on a person's record. It is \$303.30, plus the cost of the deer \$43.75 – not enough to deter illegal hunting.

Albino and white deer are exceedingly rare, statistics state 1 in 20,000. These are dominating, strong and healthy animals living up to 13 years. Genetics research shows the white coat comes from a recessive gene and by no means indicates defectiveness.

Resolution: Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sauk County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct these problems by introducing rule changes as follows:

- 1) Extend protection for white and albino deer to CWD zones.
- 2) Change the legislative language to "predominantly white deer are protected."
- 3) Increase the fine to \$10,000 or 180 days in jail, confiscation of the animal and equipment, and loss of hunting privileges for five years.

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