

There is certainly nothing inherently wrong with the approach taken in this proposal. We do believe, however, that placing fines for the commission of the misdemeanor offense in one paragraph and the imposition of civil penalties for damages inflicted in a standalone paragraph adds significantly to clarity and readability.

We believe that civil penalties are the state's means of securing compensation for harm done. They are not intended as penalties for wrongful conduct. As such, the amount sought should reflect the damage or loss incurred by the state as a result of the individual's actions. If the amounts specified are excessive, they are not going to be imposed. If you want to differentiate among deer by sex, size, antlers, etc., that is an appropriate factor in establishing value and this is the place to do it.

The Council agrees with the objective of the legislation but believes that the issues raised above should be addressed before amending the statutes. Clarity and an implementation cum education plan are particularly important in this instance.

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