

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FULL TEXT

**Ballot Title:** CAPTIVE WILDLIFE HUNTING BAN

**Ballot Summary:** Prohibits captive wildlife hunting in the state of Florida to prevent animal cruelty, preserve and protect Florida native lands, limit disease transmission, protect the public health of Florida citizens, and preserve and protect wildlife species.

**Article and Section Being Created or Amended:** ARTICLE X, SECTION 35

## Full Text of the Proposed Amendment:

(a) Captive wildlife hunting disrupts the delicate balance of ecosystems and puts Florida biodiversity at risk by allowing trophy hunting facilities on private land for the killing of native and exotic species exempt from humane treatment laws.

(1) All Florida citizens have an interest in protecting Florida wildlife and ecosystems as well as ensuring the health and survival of the biodiversity of the state.

(2) Animals killed by captive wildlife hunting may be native to Florida, foreign, privately bred, or purchased from any person who trafficks in animals. The animals are frequently hand-raised and bottle-fed and have therefore lost their natural fear of people, making them easy targets to be killed for a trophy.

(3) The introduction of exotic game animals on these captive wildlife hunting facilities poses a severe threat to native wildlife and established ecosystems if they are able to escape.

(4) Captive wildlife hunting facilities pose a public health threat to all Florida citizens and native Florida animals. The risk of disease transmission from these animals poses a serious human health threat. Disease transmission to native wildlife species outside the limits of captive wildlife hunting facilities increases the likelihood of disease amongst Florida native species as well as human beings. Many human diseases begin in the exotic and game animal populations, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

(5) Any captive wildlife hunting, and the operation of captive wildlife hunting facilities, in the State of Florida is hereby prohibited.

(6) To avoid conflict with the executive and administrative authority granted to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission by the Florida Constitution, this amendment shall remove the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's power to permit "game farms" provided in Florida Statute 379.3762 Section 4.

(b) For the purpose of this section:

(1) "Captive wildlife hunting facilities" also known as "game farms," are private trophy hunting facilities that offer hunters the opportunity to kill exotic and native animals held within enclosures.

(2) "Exotic" means imported from another state or country; not native.

(b) Any captive wildlife hunting in the State of Florida shall be punishable as a felony of the third degree.

(c) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void proportion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(d) This section is self-executing and shall take effect immediately upon the passage of this amendment by the voters.

## Initiative Information

**Date Approved** 5/20/2021

**Serial Number** 21-07

**Sponsor Name:** FL5.org

**Sponsor Address:** 555 Winderley Place, Suite 300 Maitland, FL 32751