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Act on Game Management Fee and Hunting Licence Fee (616/1993; amendments up to 517/2002 included)

Section 1

- (1) A person engaged in hunting or acting as a hunting master referred to in section 28 of the Hunting Act (615/1993) must pay a game management fee to the State for each hunting year. A person assisting a hunter as a dog handler or, in cervid hunting, as a driver, or assisting in hunting in a comparable manner is not obliged to pay the game management fee. A person who has paid the fee will receive a hunting card. The game management association will issue the person who pays the fee a copy of the hunting card on request.
- (2) The game management fee is subject to approval by the Government and the fee must not exceed EUR 50 for each hunting year. (1002/2001)

Section 2

- (1) Before paying the game management fee the person concerned must, by taking a hunting examination, demonstrate his/her knowledge of hunting and game management and of the hunting provisions to an examiner appointed by the game management association or the game management district. A person who is not satisfied with the decision of the examiner may, within 14 days of being notified of the decision, submit the matter for the decision of the game management association or the game management district that had appointed the examiner. Further provisions about the examination are given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- (2) The provisions laid down in subsection 1 do not, however, apply to persons who have paid the game management fee for one of the five hunting years preceding the current hunting year, or Finnish citizens who are allowed to hunt on the Åland Islands in accordance with the provisions applying to the Province of Åland, or a foreigner has the right to hunt in his/her own country.

Section 3

- (1) An annual appropriation is included in the State budget that is at least equal to the estimated total sum that, on the basis of the number of hunters in the three preceding years, will accumulate in game management fees during that year.
- (2) The appropriation referred to in subsection 1 above may be used as follows:
 - 1) to cover the operating and capital costs of the Hunters' Central Organization, the game management districts and the game management associations and the expenditure arising from hunters' group insurance;
 - 2) for game management measures, testing associated with them and other measures promoting game management; (1398/1995)
 - 3) to cover expenditure arising from the support for hunting museum activities; (1398/1995)
 - 4) for the dissemination of information by national hunters' organizations which are based on voluntary membership and to support projects carried out by hunting associations to promote game management; and (1398/1995)
 - 5) for implementing projects carried out by landowners that substantially improve game habitats. (1398/1995)

- (3) The appropriation referred to above is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the purposes referred to in subsection 2. At the same time, the Ministry may issue further provisions about the use of the appropriation.

Section 4

- (1) A person granted a licence required for hunting cervids referred to in section 10 of the Hunting Act must pay a fee to the State (*hunting licence fee*) for each cervid killed. The fee must be paid within seven days of the end of the cervid hunting season, as laid down by decree.
- (2) The maximum amount of the hunting licence fee is EUR 135, and the amount charged is subject to approval by the Government. (1002/2001)

Section 5

- (1) If the hunting licence fee is not paid within the prescribed period, the head of the police district must demand the payment. An unpaid hunting licence fee demanded in this way may be collected without any separate judgement or decision.

Section 6

- (1) The funds accumulating as hunting licence fees are primarily used to cover expenditure arising from the prevention of and compensation for damage caused by cervids. The funds may also be used to cover expenditure arising from the monitoring of cervid populations and research on cervids.

Section 7

- (1) Further provisions on the use of the funds referred to in section 3 and on the procedure to be followed in the granting of them and the collection of hunting licence fees are given by decree.
- (2) The penalty for failing to pay the hunting licence fee is laid down in section 74(2)(9) of the Hunting Act. (517/2002)

Section 7a (1237/1999)

- (1) The Hunters' Central Organization keeps a computerized register of hunters (*hunter register*) which is used for planning hunter training, advisory services, supervision of hunting, practical hunting and game management arrangements, and for carrying out other tasks related to hunting and game management and compiling statistics. The register is also used for establishing the total number of persons who have paid the game management fee and for keeping the mailing list used for sending game management fee paying-in forms to hunters.
- (2) The registrar may commission third parties to carry out tasks connected with the keeping and use of the register.

Section 7b (1237/1999)

- (1) The following information on each hunter must be entered in the hunter register:
 - 1) full name, address, the municipality of residence, and personal identity number;
 - 2) the game management fees paid for each year;
 - 3) the hunting year for which the fee is paid;
 - 4) the game management association in which the hunter is a member; and
 - 5) information about the hunters' group insurance.
- (2) Anybody who has not paid the game management fee for the five preceding years is removed from the register.

Section 7c (1237/1999)

- (1) For the purposes of carrying out the tasks referred to in section 7a, the registrar may hand over information from the hunter register to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, and other authorities, game management districts and game management associations, and the insurance company managing the hunters' group insurance. The registrar may also, for a reasonable fee, hand over name and address information of persons entered in the register for direct marketing related to hunting, unless the registered person has forbidden this.
- (2) Otherwise, the provisions of the Personal Data Act (523/1999) apply to the processing of the information in the register.

Section 8

- (1) This Act enters into force on 1 August 1993.