



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No. 605**

LCO No. 2932

\*02932\_\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LIMITED SUNDAY HUNTING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, Sunday shall  
4 be a closed season except for the purpose of trapping under the  
5 provisions of this chapter. The possession in the open air on Sunday of  
6 any implement for hunting shall be prima facie evidence of hunting in  
7 violation of the provisions of this section. No provision of this section  
8 shall be construed so as to affect any provision of section 26-31, 26-48,  
9 26-52 or 27-35 or apply to the use of bow and arrow for purposes other  
10 than hunting. Artificially propagated birds designated by the  
11 commissioner may be shot on Sundays on licensed private shooting  
12 preserves subject to such regulations of the commissioner as may  
13 apply to such private shooting preserves, provided permission so to  
14 shoot has been obtained from the town or towns within which such  
15 licensed private shooting preserves are located.

16 (b) The commissioner may allow Sunday hunting with a bow and

17 arrow on private property in areas designated by the commissioner to  
18 require additional management to control game species  
19 overpopulation. A person hunting on private property pursuant to this  
20 subsection shall obtain the written consent of the owner of such  
21 private property or from such owner's authorized agent. Such written  
22 consent shall be carried by such person while hunting pursuant to this  
23 subsection.

24 Sec. 2. Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

26 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in  
27 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer  
28 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and  
29 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader  
30 and shotgun. [, except that no] No such hunting shall be permitted on  
31 Sunday, except as provided in section 26-73, as amended by this act.  
32 No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a firearm  
33 without first obtaining a deer permit from the commissioner in  
34 addition to the license required by section 26-27, as amended.  
35 Application for such permit shall be made on forms furnished by the  
36 commissioner and containing such information as he may require.  
37 Such permit shall be of a design prescribed by the commissioner, shall  
38 contain such information and conditions as the commissioner may  
39 require, and may be revoked for violation of any provision of this  
40 chapter or regulations adopted pursuant thereto. As used in this  
41 section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle or shotgun of at least forty-five  
42 caliber, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge, which uses  
43 powder, a projectile, including, but not limited to, a standard round  
44 ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot bullets, and wadding loaded  
45 separately at the muzzle end and "rifle" means a long gun the projectile  
46 of which is six millimeters or larger in diameter. The fee for a firearms  
47 permit shall be fourteen dollars for residents of the state and fifty  
48 dollars for nonresidents, except that any nonresident who is an active  
49 full-time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103,

50 may purchase a firearms permit for the same fee as is charged a  
51 resident of the state. The commissioner shall issue, without fee, a  
52 private land deer permit to the owner of ten or more acres of private  
53 land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling and any  
54 lineal descendant of such owner, provided no such owner, husband or  
55 wife, parent, grandparent, sibling or lineal descendant shall be issued  
56 more than one such permit per season. Such permit shall allow the use  
57 of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from  
58 November first to December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so  
59 hunted at such times and in such areas of such state-owned land as are  
60 designated by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and on  
61 privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on  
62 forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be  
63 carried by any person when so hunting on private land. The owner of  
64 ten acres or more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt  
65 deer on such land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall  
66 determine, by regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any  
67 regulated area established by said commissioner. The commissioner  
68 shall provide for a fair and equitable random method for the selection  
69 of successful applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader  
70 permits for hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name  
71 appears on more than one application for a shotgun permit or more  
72 than one application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified  
73 from the selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt,  
74 pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first  
75 obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow  
76 and arrow" as used in this section and in section 26-86c means a bow  
77 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall  
78 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an  
79 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind  
80 while hunting with a bow and arrow under said sections.

81 (b) Any person who takes a deer without a permit shall be fined not  
82 less than two hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars or  
83 imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than six months or shall

84 be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense, and for each  
85 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or  
86 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year  
87 or shall be both fined and imprisoned.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	26-86a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow bow and arrow hunting on Sunday on private property.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*