



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 362

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6553

House of Representatives, March 31, 2009

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY, R. of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING 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 Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2009*):

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
18 that require additional management to control game species
19 overpopulation, provided the commissioner shall not allow such
20 Sunday hunting on land containing or adjacent to a designated hiking
21 trail. A person hunting on private property pursuant to this subsection
22 shall obtain the written consent of the owner of such private property,
23 or of such owner's authorized agent. Such written consent shall be
24 carried by such person while hunting pursuant to this subsection.

25 Sec. 2. Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

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

50 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may purchase a firearms
51 permit for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The
52 commissioner shall issue, without fee, a private land deer permit to the
53 owner of ten or more acres of private land and the husband or wife,
54 parent, grandparent, sibling and any lineal descendant of such owner,
55 provided no such owner, husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling
56 or lineal descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per
57 season. Such permit shall allow the use of a rifle, shotgun,
58 muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from November first to
59 December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so hunted at such times
60 and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the
61 Commissioner of Environmental Protection and on privately owned
62 land with the signed consent of the landowner, on forms furnished by
63 the department, and such signed consent shall be carried by any
64 person when so hunting on private land. The owner of ten acres or
65 more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt deer on such
66 land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall determine, by
67 regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any regulated area
68 established by said commissioner. The commissioner shall provide for
69 a fair and equitable random method for the selection of successful
70 applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader permits for
71 hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name appears on more
72 than one application for a shotgun permit or more than one
73 application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified from the
74 selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt, pursue,
75 wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first obtaining a
76 bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow and arrow" as
77 used in this section and in section 26-86c means a bow with a draw
78 weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall have two or
79 more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an inch at the
80 widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind while hunting
81 with a bow and arrow under said sections.

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

85 be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense, and for each
86 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or
87 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year
88 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, 2009</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	26-86a

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill permits the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to allow Sunday hunting on certain state lands and does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6553

AN ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING.

SUMMARY:

This bill permits Sunday hunting under certain circumstances. It allows the Department of Environmental Protection commissioner to allow hunting on a Sunday with a bow and arrow on private property in areas she designates that require additional management to control game species overpopulation. It stipulates that the commissioner cannot allow Sunday hunting on land containing or adjacent to a designated hiking trail. Under the bill, a person hunting on private property on Sunday must obtain the written consent of the property owner or the owner's authorized agent and carry it while hunting on Sunday.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 11 (03/13/2009)