



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

***Raised Bill No. 6553***

LCO No. 3852

\*03852\_\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***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 Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 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 of 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 Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2009*):

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. Application for such  
35 permit shall be made on forms furnished by the commissioner and  
36 containing such information as he may require. Such permit shall be of  
37 a design prescribed by the commissioner, shall contain such  
38 information and conditions as the commissioner may require, and may  
39 be revoked for violation of any provision of this chapter or regulations  
40 adopted pursuant thereto. As used in this section, "muzzleloader"  
41 means a rifle or shotgun of at least forty-five caliber, incapable of firing  
42 a self-contained cartridge, which uses powder, a projectile, including,  
43 but not limited to, a standard round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and  
44 Sabot bullets, and wadding loaded separately at the muzzle end and  
45 "rifle" means a long gun the projectile of which is six millimeters or  
46 larger in diameter. The fee for a firearms permit shall be fourteen  
47 dollars for residents of the state and fifty dollars for nonresidents,  
48 except that any nonresident who is an active full-time member of the  
49 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may purchase a firearms

50 permit for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The  
51 commissioner shall issue, without fee, a private land deer permit to the  
52 owner of ten or more acres of private land and the husband or wife,  
53 parent, grandparent, sibling and any lineal descendant of such owner,  
54 provided no such owner, husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling  
55 or lineal descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per  
56 season. Such permit shall allow the use of a rifle, shotgun,  
57 muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from November first to  
58 December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so hunted at such times  
59 and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the  
60 Commissioner of Environmental Protection and on privately owned  
61 land with the signed consent of the landowner, on forms furnished by  
62 the department, and such signed consent shall be carried by any  
63 person when so hunting on private land. The owner of ten acres or  
64 more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt deer on such  
65 land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall determine, by  
66 regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any regulated area  
67 established by said commissioner. The commissioner shall provide for  
68 a fair and equitable random method for the selection of successful  
69 applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader permits for  
70 hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name appears on more  
71 than one application for a shotgun permit or more than one  
72 application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified from the  
73 selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt, pursue,  
74 wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first obtaining a  
75 bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow and arrow" as  
76 used in this section and in section 26-86c means a bow with a draw  
77 weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall have two or  
78 more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an inch at the  
79 widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind while hunting  
80 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, 2009</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</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.]*