



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 289

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5261

House of Representatives, April 5, 2012

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

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HUNTING OF DEER WITH A HANDGUN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-82a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

3 The commissioner shall issue, upon payment of a five-dollar fee, to
4 the owner of ten or more acres of private land or a resident of this
5 state, who has the consent of the owner of ten or more acres of private
6 land, a [private land revolver] permit that allows the use of a [revolver,
7 as defined in section 29-27,] handgun to hunt deer from November
8 first to December thirty-first, inclusive, pursuant to the bag limit
9 established for a private land deer permit under subsection (a) of
10 section 26-86a. For the purposes of this section, "handgun" means a
11 firearm with a rifled bore, which is designed to be fired from a
12 handheld position and to hold individual cartridges in individual
13 chambers, whether multiple chambers arrayed in a cylinder or a single
14 chamber. Any person authorized to hunt deer [by revolver] pursuant
15 to this section shall use a [cartridge of .357 caliber or larger for such

16 purpose] straight-walled cartridge of .357 caliber or larger or a
17 shouldered cartridge of 6 millimeters or larger.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	26-82a

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill may result in a minimal revenue gain from the additional sale of \$5 Private Land Deer Endorsements, as it broadens the definition of handgun to include a revolver.

In FY 11, there were 974 \$5 revolver permits sold, generating \$4,870 in revenue.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to fee changes and the number of additional permits sold.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5261

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HUNTING OF DEER WITH A HANDGUN.

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes hunting deer on private land annually between November 1 and December 31 with a handgun, as defined under the bill, instead of with a revolver. In doing so, it expands the type of guns hunters can use to include single shot handguns. But it appears to exclude semi-automatic pistols.

The bill requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to issue handgun permits for such hunting, instead of private land revolver permits, for such hunting. The permit fee is \$5.

For purposes of the bill, a “handgun” is a firearm with a rifled bore designed to be fired from a handheld position and to hold individual cartridges in individual chambers, whether multiple chambers arrayed in a cylinder or a single chamber. (For purposes of other laws, existing law defines a handgun differently.)

The bill requires that any hunter allowed to hunt deer with a handgun use a (1) straight-walled cartridge of at least .357 caliber, the same size as required by current law for revolvers, or (2) shouldered cartridge of at least 6 millimeters.

By law, the private land must consist of at least 10 acres and be owned by either the hunter, who must be a state resident, or someone who consents to the hunter’s use. The hunting is subject to the private land deer permit bag limit established by the commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

BACKGROUND

Handgun Definition

Existing law defines a handgun (i.e., pistol or revolver) as a firearm capable of firing rim-fire or center-fire ammunition and designed or built to be fired with one hand (CGS § 29-7h (2)). It defines a pistol or revolver as a firearm with a barrel length of less than 12 inches (CGS § 53a-3(18)).

Gun Permit

With limited exceptions, the law prohibits a person from carrying a handgun without a permit issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (CGS § 29-35).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 5 (03/21/2012)