



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 576

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6034

House of Representatives, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ALBIS of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.

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 Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 October 1, 2015*):

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

15 town or towns within which such licensed private shooting preserves
16 are located. Any person who hunts deer on Sunday with bow and
17 arrow on private property pursuant to this section shall: (1) Conduct
18 such hunting only in deer management zones determined by the
19 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be
20 overpopulated and only in accordance with and pursuant to the
21 wildlife management principles and practices established by the
22 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, (2) have the
23 written permission of the private property owner where such hunting
24 is conducted, and (3) carry such written permission upon his or her
25 person during the hunting. No person shall hunt with bow and arrow
26 on Sunday on private property pursuant to this section within forty
27 yards of a blazed hiking trail.

28 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 26-86a of the general statutes is
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
30 *October 1, 2015*):

31 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in
32 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer
33 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and
34 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader
35 and shotgun, except that no such hunting shall be permitted on
36 Sunday by any means other than with bow and arrow on private
37 property pursuant to section 26-73, as amended by this act. No person
38 shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a firearm without first
39 obtaining a deer permit from the commissioner in addition to the
40 license required by section 26-27. Application for such permit shall be
41 made on forms furnished by the commissioner and containing such
42 information as he may require. Such permit shall be of a design
43 prescribed by the commissioner, shall contain such information and
44 conditions as the commissioner may require, and may be revoked for
45 violation of any provision of this chapter or regulations adopted
46 pursuant thereto. As used in this section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle
47 or shotgun of at least forty-five caliber, incapable of firing a self-
48 contained cartridge, which uses powder, a projectile, including, but

49 not limited to, a standard round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot
50 bullets, and wadding loaded separately at the muzzle end, and "rifle"
51 means a long gun the projectile of which is six millimeters or larger in
52 diameter. The fee for a firearms permit shall be nineteen dollars for
53 residents of the state and sixty-eight dollars for nonresidents, except
54 that any nonresident who is an active full-time member of the armed
55 forces, as defined in section 27-103, may purchase a firearms permit for
56 the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The commissioner
57 shall issue, without fee, a private land deer permit to the owner of ten
58 or more acres of private land and the husband or wife, parent,
59 grandparent, sibling and any lineal descendant of such owner,
60 provided no such owner, husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling
61 or lineal descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per
62 season. Such permit shall allow the use of a rifle, shotgun,
63 muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from November first to
64 December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so hunted at such times
65 and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the
66 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and on
67 privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on
68 forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be
69 carried by any person when so hunting on private land. The owner of
70 ten acres or more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt
71 deer on such land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall
72 determine, by regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any
73 regulated area established by said commissioner. The commissioner
74 shall provide for a fair and equitable random method for the selection
75 of successful applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader
76 permits for hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name
77 appears on more than one application for a shotgun permit or more
78 than one application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified
79 from the selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt,
80 pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first
81 obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow
82 and arrow", as used in this section and in section 26-86c, means a bow
83 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall

84 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an
85 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind
86 while hunting with a bow and arrow under this section and section 26-
87 86c.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	26-86a(a)

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 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than 40,000	Less than 40,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows Sunday deer hunting with a bow and arrow under certain conditions. This expanded hunting program is anticipated to result in a 5% increase in the number of resident and non-resident archery permits sold, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) of less than \$40,000 annually. In FY 14, DEEP issued 13,373 permits for hunting deer and small game with a bow and arrow for: (1) junior residents and non-residents (at a cost of \$19 each); (2) adult residents (at a cost of \$41 each); and (3) adult non-residents (at a cost of \$135 each) generating \$664,077 in revenue.

In addition, the bill may result in fewer violations of the prohibition against hunting on Sundays. In FY 14, there were four offenses generating revenue of \$700 from fines.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6034*****AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows Sunday deer hunting with a bow and arrow on private land in overpopulated deer management zones, as the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) determines. The hunting (1) must be in accordance with DEEP's wildlife management principles and practices and (2) cannot take place within 40 yards of a blazed (clearly marked) hiking trail. The hunter must (1) have the private landowner's written permission to hunt there and (2) carry it while hunting. By law, no one can hunt deer with a bow and arrow without first obtaining a DEEP bow and arrow permit.

Current law prohibits Sunday hunting. A violation of the Sunday hunting law is a class D misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$250, or both (CGS § 26-81). The bill eliminates a provision that makes possessing a bow and arrow outdoors on Sunday prima facie evidence of hunting in violation of the law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Deer Management Zones***

DEEP has identified 13 deer management zones throughout the state, and currently estimates that 11 of the zones are overpopulated. DEEP considers a zone overpopulated if it has at least 20 deer per square mile.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 9 (03/25/2015)