



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Committee Bill No. 5499

LCO No. 4096



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING SUNDAY HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

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 Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2017*):

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] on
7 private property, shall be prima facie evidence of hunting in violation
8 of the provisions of this section. No provision of this section shall be
9 construed so as to affect any provision of section 26-31, 26-48, 26-52 or
10 27-35. Artificially propagated birds designated by the commissioner
11 may be shot on Sundays on licensed private shooting preserves subject
12 to such regulations of the commissioner as may apply to such private
13 shooting preserves, provided permission so to shoot has been obtained
14 from the town or towns within which such licensed private shooting
15 preserves are located. [Any person who hunts deer on Sunday with
16 bow and arrow on private property pursuant to this section shall: (1)

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

27 Sec. 2. Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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

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

84 while hunting with a bow and arrow under this section and section 26-
85 86c.

86 (b) Any person who takes a deer without a permit shall be fined not
87 less than two hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars or
88 imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than six months or shall
89 be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense, and for each
90 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or
91 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year
92 or shall be both fined and imprisoned.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-86a

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize all Sunday hunting on private property by any means.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SKULCZYCK, 45th Dist.; REP. ORANGE, 48th Dist.
REP. SANTIAGO, 130th Dist.

H.B. 5499