



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

**Committee Bill No. 522**

LCO No. 4095



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING BEAR HUNTING IN CONNECTICUT.***

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

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 Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

3 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in  
4 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer and  
5 black bear management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits,  
6 seasons and permit eligibility for hunting deer and black bear with  
7 bow and arrow, muzzleloader and shotgun, except that no such  
8 hunting shall be permitted on Sunday by any means other than with  
9 bow and arrow on private property pursuant to section 26-73, as  
10 amended by this act. No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer  
11 or black bear with a firearm without first obtaining a deer or black bear  
12 permit from the commissioner in addition to the license required by  
13 section 26-27. Application for such permit shall be made on forms  
14 furnished by the commissioner and containing such information as he  
15 may require. Such permit shall be of a design prescribed by the  
16 commissioner, shall contain such information and conditions as the

17 commissioner may require, and may be revoked for violation of any  
18 provision of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant thereto. As  
19 used in this section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle or shotgun of at least  
20 forty-five caliber, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge, which  
21 uses powder, a projectile, including, but not limited to, a standard  
22 round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot bullets, and wadding  
23 loaded separately at the muzzle end, and "rifle" means a long gun the  
24 projectile of which is six millimeters or larger in diameter. The fee for a  
25 firearms permit shall be nineteen dollars for residents of the state and  
26 sixty-eight dollars for nonresidents, except that any nonresident who is  
27 an active full-time member of the armed forces, as defined in section  
28 27-103, may purchase a firearms permit for the same fee as is charged a  
29 resident of the state. The commissioner shall issue, without fee, a  
30 private land deer and black bear permit to the owner of ten or more  
31 acres of private land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent,  
32 sibling and any lineal descendant of such owner, provided no such  
33 owner, husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling or lineal  
34 descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per season.  
35 Such permit shall allow the use of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or  
36 bow and arrow on such land from November first to December thirty-  
37 first, inclusive. Deer and black bear may be so hunted at such times  
38 and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the  
39 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and on  
40 privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on  
41 forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be  
42 carried by any person when so hunting on private land. The owner of  
43 ten acres or more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt  
44 deer and black bear on such land during the shotgun season. The  
45 commissioner shall determine, by regulation, the number of consent  
46 forms issued for any regulated area established by said commissioner.  
47 The commissioner shall provide for a fair and equitable random  
48 method for the selection of successful applicants who may obtain  
49 shotgun and muzzleloader permits for hunting deer and black bear on  
50 state lands. Any person whose name appears on more than one

51 application for a shotgun permit or more than one application for a  
52 muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified from the selection process  
53 for such permit. No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer or  
54 black bear with a bow and arrow without first obtaining a bow and  
55 arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c, as amended by this act. "Bow  
56 and arrow", as used in this section and in section 26-86c, as amended  
57 by this act, means a bow with a draw weight of not less than forty  
58 pounds. The arrowhead shall have two or more blades and may not be  
59 less than seven-eighths of an inch at the widest point. No person shall  
60 carry firearms of any kind while hunting with a bow and arrow under  
61 this section and section 26-86c, as amended by this act.

62 (b) Any person who takes a deer or black bear without a permit  
63 shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than five  
64 hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than  
65 six months or shall be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense,  
66 and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two  
67 hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not  
68 more than one year or shall be both fined and imprisoned.

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

71 The commissioner shall issue tags to be attached to the carcass of  
72 any deer or black bear killed under the provisions of sections 26-82 and  
73 26-86a to 26-86c, inclusive, as amended by this act, which tag shall be  
74 immediately attached to such deer or black bear and remain affixed  
75 until such carcass is dressed and butchered and packaged for  
76 consumption. Each person so taking deer or black bear shall, within  
77 twenty-four hours, report such kill to the commissioner on a form  
78 furnished by him.

79 Sec. 3. Section 26-86c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
80 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

81 No person may hunt deer, black bear or small game with a bow and

82 arrow under the provisions of this chapter without a valid permit  
83 issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection  
84 pursuant to this section or section 26-86a, as amended by this act, for  
85 persons hunting deer or black bear with bow and arrow under private  
86 land deer and black bear permits issued free to qualifying landowners,  
87 or their husbands or wives, parents, grandparents, lineal descendants  
88 or siblings under that section. The fee for such bow and arrow permit  
89 to hunt deer, black bear and small game shall be forty-one dollars for  
90 residents and one hundred thirty-five dollars for nonresidents, or  
91 nineteen dollars for any person twelve years of age or older but under  
92 sixteen years of age, except that any nonresident who is an active full-  
93 time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may  
94 purchase a bow and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small  
95 game for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. Permits to  
96 hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall  
97 be issued only to qualified applicants therefor by the Commissioner of  
98 Energy and Environmental Protection, in such form as said  
99 commissioner prescribes. Applications shall be made on forms  
100 furnished by the commissioner containing such information as he may  
101 require and all such application forms shall have printed thereon: "I  
102 declare under the penalties of false statement that the statements  
103 herein made by me are true and correct." Any person who makes any  
104 material false statement on such application form shall be guilty of  
105 false statement and shall be subject to the penalties provided for false  
106 statement and said offense shall be deemed to have been committed in  
107 the town in which the applicant resides. No such application shall  
108 contain any material false statement. On and after January 1, 2002,  
109 permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this  
110 chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants who have  
111 successfully completed the conservation education bow hunting  
112 course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in another  
113 state.

114 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 26-28 of the general statutes is  
115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

116 *October 1, 2017*):

117 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this  
118 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and  
119 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:  
120 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident  
121 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing  
122 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,  
123 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;  
124 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms  
125 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in  
126 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident  
127 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, forty  
128 dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters and bow  
129 and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued  
130 pursuant to section 26-86c, as amended by this act, sixty-five dollars;  
131 (10) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and  
132 firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer and black  
133 bear permit issued pursuant to section 26-86a, as amended by this act,  
134 and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on private  
135 land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, seventy dollars; (11) resident  
136 archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and arrow permit  
137 to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued pursuant to section 26-  
138 86c, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the  
139 spring season on private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a,  
140 eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport license to fish in  
141 all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle  
142 deer and black bear permit, muzzleloader private land deer and black  
143 bear permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt  
144 wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-  
145 four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all  
146 waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and  
147 migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident  
148 trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping  
149 license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16)

150 junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident  
151 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland  
152 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters  
153 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two  
154 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;  
155 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three  
156 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing  
157 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to  
158 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)  
159 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,  
160 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to  
161 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)  
162 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-  
163 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not  
164 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of  
165 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to  
166 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap  
167 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license  
168 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk  
169 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by such  
170 clerk.

171 Sec. 5. Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

173 Sunday shall be a closed season except for hunting deer or black  
174 bear with bow and arrow on private property and for the purpose of  
175 trapping under the provisions of this chapter. The possession in the  
176 open air on Sunday of any implement for hunting, except for bow and  
177 arrow, shall be prima facie evidence of hunting in violation of the  
178 provisions of this section. No provision of this section shall be  
179 construed so as to affect any provision of section 26-31, 26-48, 26-52 or  
180 27-35. Artificially propagated birds designated by the commissioner  
181 may be shot on Sundays on licensed private shooting preserves subject  
182 to such regulations of the commissioner as may apply to such private

183 shooting preserves, provided permission so to shoot has been obtained  
 184 from the town or towns within which such licensed private shooting  
 185 preserves are located. Any person who hunts deer or black bear on  
 186 Sunday with bow and arrow on private property pursuant to this  
 187 section shall: (1) Conduct such hunting only in deer or black bear  
 188 management zones determined by the Department of Energy and  
 189 Environmental Protection to be overpopulated and only in accordance  
 190 with and pursuant to the wildlife management principles and practices  
 191 established by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
 192 Protection, (2) have the written permission of the private property  
 193 owner where such hunting is conducted, and (3) carry such written  
 194 permission upon his or her person during the hunting. No person shall  
 195 hunt with bow and arrow on Sunday on private property pursuant to  
 196 this section within forty yards of a blazed hiking trail.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-86a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-86b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-86c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-28(a)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	26-73

**Statement of Purpose:**

To authorize bear hunting in Connecticut.

*[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: SEN. MINER, 30th Dist.

S.B. 522