



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 522

January Session, 2017

* SB00522ENV__031317__ *

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 Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the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) (1) 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 (2) The regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
63 section for the hunting of black bear shall: (A) Permit the taking of
64 black bear during the first year of such hunting at a rate that does not
65 exceed five per cent of the total black bear population in the state as of
66 the effective date of this section, (B) provide for such taking of black
67 bear in rural areas of the state in order to offset the relocation of black
68 bear from densely populated areas of the state where documented
69 interaction between humans and black bears presents identified public
70 safety risks due to the frequency of black bear and human interaction,
71 and (C) require the submission of a report to the joint standing
72 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
73 relating to the environment one year after the beginning of such black
74 bear hunting that includes information on the number of black bear
75 taken pursuant to such hunting, the number of licenses issued by the
76 department to hunt such black bear and any recommendations of the
77 commissioner for any modifications to such black bear hunting in the
78 state.

79 (b) Any person who takes a deer or black bear without a permit
80 shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than five
81 hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than
82 six months or shall be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense,
83 and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two
84 hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not
85 more than one year or shall be both fined and imprisoned.

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 Section 26-86b of the general statutes is repealed and the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

88 The commissioner shall issue tags to be attached to the carcass of
89 any deer or black bear killed under the provisions of sections 26-82 and
90 26-86a to 26-86c, inclusive, as amended by this act, which tag shall be
91 immediately attached to such deer or black bear and remain affixed
92 until such carcass is dressed and butchered and packaged for
93 consumption. Each person so taking deer or black bear shall, within
94 twenty-four hours, report such kill to the commissioner on a form
95 furnished by him.

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

98 No person may hunt deer, black bear or small game with a bow and
99 arrow under the provisions of this chapter without a valid permit
100 issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
101 pursuant to this section or section 26-86a, as amended by this act, for
102 persons hunting deer or black bear with bow and arrow under private
103 land deer and black bear permits issued free to qualifying landowners,
104 or their husbands or wives, parents, grandparents, lineal descendants
105 or siblings under that section. The fee for such bow and arrow permit
106 to hunt deer, black bear and small game shall be forty-one dollars for
107 residents and one hundred thirty-five dollars for nonresidents, or
108 nineteen dollars for any person twelve years of age or older but under
109 sixteen years of age, except that any nonresident who is an active full-
110 time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may
111 purchase a bow and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small
112 game for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. Permits to
113 hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall
114 be issued only to qualified applicants therefor by the Commissioner of
115 Energy and Environmental Protection, in such form as said
116 commissioner prescribes. Applications shall be made on forms
117 furnished by the commissioner containing such information as he may
118 require and all such application forms shall have printed thereon: "I
119 declare under the penalties of false statement that the statements
120 herein made by me are true and correct." Any person who makes any

121 material false statement on such application form shall be guilty of
122 false statement and shall be subject to the penalties provided for false
123 statement and said offense shall be deemed to have been committed in
124 the town in which the applicant resides. No such application shall
125 contain any material false statement. On and after January 1, 2002,
126 permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this
127 chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants who have
128 successfully completed the conservation education bow hunting
129 course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in another
130 state.

131 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 26-28 of the general statutes is
132 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
133 *October 1, 2017*):

134 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this
135 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
136 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
137 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
138 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing
139 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
140 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
141 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
142 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
143 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
144 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, forty
145 dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters and bow
146 and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued
147 pursuant to section 26-86c, as amended by this act, sixty-five dollars;
148 (10) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and
149 firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer and black
150 bear permit issued pursuant to section 26-86a, as amended by this act,
151 and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on private
152 land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, seventy dollars; (11) resident
153 archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and arrow permit

154 to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued pursuant to section 26-
155 86c, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the
156 spring season on private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a,
157 eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport license to fish in
158 all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle
159 deer and black bear permit, muzzleloader private land deer and black
160 bear permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt
161 wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-
162 four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all
163 waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and
164 migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident
165 trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping
166 license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16)
167 junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
168 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
169 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
170 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
171 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
172 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
173 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
174 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
175 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
176 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
177 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
178 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
179 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
180 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
181 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
182 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
183 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
184 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
185 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk
186 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by such
187 clerk.

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

190 Sunday shall be a closed season except for hunting deer or black
 191 bear with bow and arrow on private property and for the purpose of
 192 trapping under the provisions of this chapter. The possession in the
 193 open air on Sunday of any implement for hunting, except for bow and
 194 arrow, shall be prima facie evidence of hunting in violation of the
 195 provisions of this section. No provision of this section shall be
 196 construed so as to affect any provision of section 26-31, 26-48, 26-52 or
 197 27-35. Artificially propagated birds designated by the commissioner
 198 may be shot on Sundays on licensed private shooting preserves subject
 199 to such regulations of the commissioner as may apply to such private
 200 shooting preserves, provided permission so to shoot has been obtained
 201 from the town or towns within which such licensed private shooting
 202 preserves are located. Any person who hunts deer or black bear on
 203 Sunday with bow and arrow on private property pursuant to this
 204 section shall: (1) Conduct such hunting only in deer or black bear
 205 management zones determined by the Department of Energy and
 206 Environmental Protection to be overpopulated and only in accordance
 207 with and pursuant to the wildlife management principles and practices
 208 established by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
 209 Protection, (2) have the written permission of the private property
 210 owner where such hunting is conducted, and (3) carry such written
 211 permission upon his or her person during the hunting. No person shall
 212 hunt with bow and arrow on Sunday on private property pursuant to
 213 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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*