



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Amendment

LCO No. 7396



Offered by:
SEN. MINER, 30th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 522

File No. 241

Cal. No. 142

"AN ACT AUTHORIZING BEAR HUNTING IN CONNECTICUT."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the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

5 (a) (1) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in
6 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer
7 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and
8 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader
9 and shotgun, except that no such hunting shall be permitted on
10 Sunday by any means other than with bow and arrow on private
11 property pursuant to section 26-73, as amended by this act. No person
12 shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a firearm without first
13 obtaining a deer permit from the commissioner in addition to the
14 license required by section 26-27. Application for such permit shall be
15 made on forms furnished by the commissioner and containing such

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

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

63 (2) Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
64 section may provide for the hunting of black bear in Litchfield County
65 provided any such regulations: (A) Permit the taking of black bear
66 during the first year of such hunting at a rate that does not exceed five
67 per cent of the total black bear population in the state as of the effective
68 date of this section, and (B) require the submission of a report to the
69 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
70 of matters relating to the environment one year after the beginning of
71 such black bear hunting that includes information on the number of
72 black bear taken pursuant to such hunting, the number of licenses
73 issued by the department to hunt such black bear and any
74 recommendations of the commissioner for any modifications to such
75 black bear hunting in the state.

76 (b) Any person who takes a deer or black bear without a permit
77 shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than five
78 hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than
79 six months or shall be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense,
80 and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two
81 hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not
82 more than one year or shall be both fined and imprisoned. The
83 provisions of this subsection concerning black bear shall only be
84 applicable after the commissioner adopts regulations pursuant to

85 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

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

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

99 No person may hunt deer, black bear or small game with a bow and
100 arrow under the provisions of this chapter without a valid permit
101 issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
102 pursuant to this section or section 26-86a, as amended by this act, for
103 persons hunting deer or black bear with bow and arrow under private
104 land deer and black bear permits issued free to qualifying landowners,
105 or their husbands or wives, parents, grandparents, lineal descendants
106 or siblings under that section. The fee for such bow and arrow permit
107 to hunt deer, black bear and small game shall be forty-one dollars for
108 residents and one hundred thirty-five dollars for nonresidents, or
109 nineteen dollars for any person twelve years of age or older but under
110 sixteen years of age, except that any nonresident who is an active full-
111 time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may
112 purchase a bow and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small
113 game for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The
114 provisions of this section concerning black bear shall only be
115 applicable after the commissioner adopts regulations in accordance
116 with section 26-86a, as amended by this act. Permits to hunt with a

117 bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued
118 only to qualified applicants therefor by the Commissioner of Energy
119 and Environmental Protection, in such form as said commissioner
120 prescribes. Applications shall be made on forms furnished by the
121 commissioner containing such information as he may require and all
122 such application forms shall have printed thereon: "I declare under the
123 penalties of false statement that the statements herein made by me are
124 true and correct." Any person who makes any material false statement
125 on such application form shall be guilty of false statement and shall be
126 subject to the penalties provided for false statement and said offense
127 shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which the
128 applicant resides. No such application shall contain any material false
129 statement. On and after January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow
130 and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to
131 qualified applicants who have successfully completed the conservation
132 education bow hunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an
133 equivalent course in another state.

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

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

151 (10) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and
152 firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer and black
153 bear permit issued pursuant to section 26-86a, as amended by this act,
154 and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on private
155 land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, seventy dollars; (11) resident
156 archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and arrow permit
157 to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued pursuant to section 26-
158 86c, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the
159 spring season on private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a,
160 eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport license to fish in
161 all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle
162 deer and black bear permit, muzzleloader private land deer and black
163 bear permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt
164 wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-
165 four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all
166 waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and
167 migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident
168 trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping
169 license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16)
170 junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
171 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
172 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
173 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
174 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
175 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
176 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
177 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
178 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
179 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
180 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
181 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
182 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. The provisions
183 of this section concerning black bear shall only be applicable after the
184 commissioner adopts regulations in accordance with section 26-86a, as
185 amended by this act. Persons sixty-five years of age and over who have

186 been residents of this state for not less than one year and who meet the
187 requirements of subsection (b) of section 26-31 may be issued an
188 annual license to firearms hunt or to fish or combination license to fish
189 and firearms hunt or a license to trap without fee. The issuing agency
190 shall indicate on a combination license the specific purpose for which
191 such license is issued. The town clerk shall retain a recording fee of one
192 dollar for each license issued by such clerk.

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

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

220 commissioner adopts regulations in accordance with section 26-86a, as
221 amended by this act."

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