



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 81

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5366

House of Representatives, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. DEMICCO of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING SUNDAY BOW HUNTING OF DEER ON PRIVATE PROPERTY THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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 Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2018*):

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. Artificially
10 propagated birds designated by the commissioner may be shot on
11 Sundays on licensed private shooting preserves subject to such
12 regulations of the commissioner as may apply to such private shooting
13 preserves, provided permission so to shoot has been obtained from the
14 town or towns within which such licensed private shooting preserves

15 are located. Any person who hunts deer on Sunday with bow and
16 arrow on private property pursuant to this section shall: (1) [Conduct
17 such hunting only in deer management zones determined by the
18 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]
22 Have the written permission of the private property owner where such
23 hunting is conducted, and [(3)] (2) carry such written permission upon
24 his or her person during the hunting. No person shall hunt with bow
25 and arrow on Sunday on private property pursuant to this section
26 within forty yards of a blazed hiking trail.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	26-73

ENV *Joint Favorable*

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 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Approximately 32,000	Approximately 32,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands deer hunting with a bow and arrow on Sunday's to the entire state rather than certain overpopulated deer management zones.

In FY 17, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued 13,316 permits for hunting deer and small game with a bow and arrow generating revenue of \$650,347. By expanding the hunting program, the bill is anticipated to result in a 5% increase in the quantity of archery permits sold, resulting in a potential revenue gain to DEEP of approximately \$32,000 annually.

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

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**HB 5366*****AN ACT AUTHORIZING SUNDAY BOW HUNTING OF DEER ON PRIVATE PROPERTY THROUGHOUT THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the area where Sunday bow and arrow deer hunting is permitted to private land throughout the state instead of only in overpopulated deer management zones determined by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The bill also eliminates a related provision requiring the hunting to be done in accordance with DEEP's wildlife management principles and practices.

As under existing law, the hunter must have the private landowner's written permission to hunt there and carry it while hunting. The hunting also cannot take place within 40 yards of a blazed (i.e., clearly marked) hiking trail.

By law, no one can hunt deer by bow and arrow without first obtaining a DEEP bow and arrow permit. Hunters must also comply with associated deer hunting regulations, which address such things as the open season, reporting requirements, and bag limits. 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).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***Deer Management Zones***

DEEP has identified 13 deer management zones throughout the state and currently estimates that 10 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

Yea 19 Nay 10 (03/14/2018)