

HB3741



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3741

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Travis Weaver

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/2.26

from Ch. 61, par. 2.26

Amends the Wildlife Code. Requires a person who obtains a Deer Hunting Permit or set of permits or tags, that, in sum, is for the harvesting of 2 or more deer by that person, to harvest at least one antlerless deer out of the 2 or more deer harvested, if any deer are harvested. Makes technical changes.

LRB104 10523 BDA 20598 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing
5 Section 2.26 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.26) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.26)

7 Sec. 2.26. Deer hunting permits. Any person attempting to
8 take deer shall first obtain a "Deer Hunting Permit" issued by
9 the Department in accordance with its administrative rules.
10 Those rules must provide for the issuance of the following
11 types of resident deer archery permits: (i) a combination
12 permit, consisting of one either-sex permit and one
13 antlerless-only permit, (ii) a single antlerless-only permit,
14 and (iii) a single either-sex permit. The fee for a Deer
15 Hunting Permit to take deer with either bow and arrow or gun
16 shall not exceed \$25 for residents of the State. The
17 Department may by administrative rule provide for non-resident
18 deer hunting permits for which the fee will not exceed \$300 in
19 2005, \$350 in 2006, and \$400 in 2007 and thereafter except as
20 provided below for non-resident landowners and non-resident
21 archery hunters. The Department may by administrative rule
22 provide for a non-resident archery deer permit consisting of
23 not more than 2 harvest tags at a total cost not to exceed \$325

1 in 2005, \$375 in 2006, and \$425 in 2007 and thereafter. The
2 fees for a youth resident and non-resident archery deer permit
3 shall be the same.

4 The Department shall create a pilot program during the
5 special 3-day, youth-only deer hunting season to allow for
6 youth deer hunting permits that are valid statewide, excluding
7 those counties or portions of counties closed to firearm deer
8 hunting. The Department shall adopt rules to implement the
9 pilot program. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
10 prohibit the Department from issuing Special Hunt Area Permits
11 for the youth-only deer hunting season or establishing,
12 through administrative rule, additional requirements
13 pertaining to the youth-only deer hunting season on
14 Department-owned or Department-managed sites, including
15 site-specific quotas or drawings. The provisions of this
16 paragraph are inoperative on and after January 1, 2023.

17 The standards and specifications for use of guns and bow
18 and arrow for deer hunting shall be established by
19 administrative rule.

20 No person may have in his or her possession any firearm not
21 authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting
22 season when taking deer unless in accordance with the Firearm
23 Concealed Carry Act.

24 Persons having a firearm deer hunting permit shall be
25 permitted to take deer only during the period from 1/2 hour
26 before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, and only during those

1 days for which an open season is established for the taking of
2 deer by use of shotgun, handgun, rifle, or muzzle loading
3 rifle.

4 Persons having an archery deer hunting permit shall be
5 permitted to take deer only during the period from 1/2 hour
6 before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, and only during those
7 days for which an open season is established for the taking of
8 deer by use of bow and arrow.

9 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer by use of
10 dogs, horses, automobiles, aircraft, or other vehicles, or by
11 the use or aid of bait or baiting of any kind. For the purposes
12 of this Section, "bait" means any material, whether liquid or
13 solid, including food, salt, minerals, and other products,
14 except pure water, that can be ingested, placed, or scattered
15 in such a manner as to attract or lure white-tailed deer.
16 "Baiting" means the placement or scattering of bait to attract
17 deer. An area is considered as baited during the presence of
18 and for 10 consecutive days following the removal of bait.
19 Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the use of a dog to
20 track wounded deer. Any person using a dog for tracking
21 wounded deer must maintain physical control of the dog at all
22 times by means of a maximum 50-foot ~~50-foot~~ lead attached to
23 the dog's collar or harness. Tracking wounded deer is
24 permissible at night, but at no time outside of legal deer
25 hunting hours or seasons shall any person handling or
26 accompanying a dog being used for tracking wounded deer be in

1 possession of any firearm or archery device. Persons tracking
2 wounded deer with a dog during the firearm deer seasons shall
3 wear blaze orange or solid blaze pink color as required. Dog
4 handlers tracking wounded deer with a dog are exempt from
5 hunting license and deer permit requirements so long as they
6 are accompanied by the licensed deer hunter who wounded the
7 deer.

8 It shall be unlawful to possess or transport any wild deer
9 which has been injured or killed in any manner upon a public
10 highway or public right-of-way of this State unless exempted
11 by administrative rule.

12 Persons hunting deer must have the gun unloaded and no bow
13 and arrow device shall be carried with the arrow in the nocked
14 position during hours when deer hunting is unlawful.

15 It shall be unlawful for any person, having taken the
16 legal limit of deer by gun, to further participate with a gun
17 in any deer hunting party.

18 It shall be unlawful for any person, having taken the
19 legal limit of deer by bow and arrow, to further participate
20 with bow and arrow in any deer hunting party.

21 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
22 contrary, a person who obtains a Deer Hunting Permit or set of
23 permits or tags under this Section, that, in sum, is for the
24 harvesting of 2 or more deer by that person, shall be required
25 to harvest at least one antlerless deer out of the 2 or more
26 deer harvested, if any deer are harvested. If a person who

1 obtains a Deer Hunting Permit or set of permits or tags under
2 this Section, that, in sum, is for the harvesting of 2 or more
3 deer by that person, knowingly harvests a deer but no
4 antlerless deer, then that person shall be in violation of
5 this Section.

6 The Department may prohibit upland game hunting during the
7 gun deer season by administrative rule.

8 The Department shall not limit the number of non-resident,
9 either-sex archery deer hunting permits to less than 20,000.

10 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this
11 Section, including administrative rules, shall be guilty of a
12 Class B misdemeanor.

13 For the purposes of calculating acreage under this
14 Section, the Department shall, after determining the total
15 acreage of the applicable tract or tracts of land, round
16 remaining fractional portions of an acre greater than or equal
17 to half of an acre up to the next whole acre.

18 For the purposes of taking white-tailed deer, nothing in
19 this Section shall be construed to prevent the manipulation,
20 including mowing or cutting, of standing crops as a normal
21 agricultural or soil stabilization practice, food plots, or
22 normal agricultural practices, including planting, harvesting,
23 and maintenance such as cultivating or the use of products
24 designed for scent only and not capable of ingestion, solid or
25 liquid, placed or scattered, in such a manner as to attract or
26 lure deer. Such manipulation for the purpose of taking

1 white-tailed deer may be further modified by administrative
2 rule.

3 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-444, eff. 6-1-20;
4 102-237, eff. 1-1-22; 102-932, eff. 1-1-23; revised 10-23-24.)