

HB3858



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3858

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/2.2c new
520 ILCS 5/2.25

from Ch. 61, par. 2.25

Amends the Wildlife Code. Abolishes any Chronic Wasting Disease programs established within or conducted by the Department of Natural Resources. Makes conforming changes in the Code.

LRB104 12296 BDA 22423 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 2.25 and by adding Section 2.2c as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.2c new)

7 Sec. 2.2c. Chronic wasting disease programs abolished.
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any programs
9 established within or conducted by the Department that are
10 relating to chronic wasting disease are hereby abolished. On
11 or before the date one year after the effective date of this
12 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the Department
13 shall adopt administrative rules implementing this Section.

14 (520 ILCS 5/2.25) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.25)

15 Sec. 2.25. It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer
16 except (i) with a shotgun, handgun, single shot centerfire
17 rifle, or muzzleloading rifle or (ii) as provided by
18 administrative rule, with a bow and arrow, during the open
19 season of not more than 14 days which will be set annually by
20 the Director between the dates of November 1st and December
21 31st, both inclusive, or a special 3-day, youth-only season
22 between the dates of September 1 and October 31. For the

1 purposes of this Section, legal handguns and rifles are
2 limited to centerfire handguns that are either a single shot
3 or revolver and centerfire rifles that are single shot. The
4 only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun or rifle is a
5 bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with
6 a case length not exceeding one and two-fifths inches, or a
7 straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger,
8 both of which must be available as a factory load with the
9 published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a
10 capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.
11 The barrel of a handgun shall be at least 4 inches. Full metal
12 jacket bullets may not be used to harvest deer.

13 The Department shall make administrative rules concerning
14 management restrictions applicable to the firearm and bow and
15 arrow season.

16 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except
17 with a bow and arrow during the open season for bow and arrow
18 set annually by the Director between the dates of September
19 1st and January 31st, both inclusive.

20 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except
21 with (i) a muzzleloading rifle or (ii) bow and arrow during the
22 open season for muzzleloading rifles set annually by the
23 Director.

24 The Director shall cause an administrative rule setting
25 forth the prescribed rules and regulations, including bag and
26 possession limits and those counties of the State where open

1 seasons are established, to be published in accordance with
2 Sections 1.3 and 1.13 of this Act.

3 The Department may establish separate harvest periods for
4 the purpose of managing or eradicating disease that has been
5 found in the deer herd, except as provided in Section 2.2c.
6 This season shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting
7 only. The Department shall publicly announce, via statewide
8 news release, the season dates and shooting hours, the
9 counties and sites open to hunting.

10 The Department is authorized to establish a separate
11 harvest period at specific sites within the State for the
12 purpose of harvesting surplus deer that cannot be taken during
13 the regular season provided for the taking of deer. This
14 season shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting only
15 and shall be established during the period of September 1st to
16 February 15th, both inclusive. The Department shall publicly
17 announce, via statewide news release, the season dates and
18 shooting hours, and the counties and sites open to hunting.
19 The Department shall publish suitable prescribed rules and
20 regulations established by administrative rule pertaining to
21 management restrictions applicable to this special harvest
22 program. The Department shall allow unused gun deer permits
23 that are left over from a regular season for the taking of deer
24 to be rolled over and used during any separate harvest period
25 held within 6 months of the season for which those tags were
26 issued at no additional cost to the permit holder subject to

1 the management restrictions applicable to the special harvest
2 program.

3 Beginning July 1, 2019, and on an annual basis thereafter,
4 except as provided in Section 2.2c, the Department shall
5 provide a report to the General Assembly providing information
6 regarding deer management programs established by the Code or
7 by administrative rule that includes: (1) the number of
8 surplus deer taken during each separate harvest season; (2)
9 the number of deer found to have a communicable disease or
10 other abnormality; and (3) what happens to the deer taken
11 during each separate harvest season.

12 (Source: P.A. 101-66, eff. 7-12-19; 102-314, eff. 1-1-22;
13 102-932, eff. 1-1-23.)