

# HB4693



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

**HB4693**

by Rep. Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr.

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/2.33a

from Ch. 61, par. 2.33a

Amends the Wildlife Code. In a provision concerning trapping, replaces references to "leghold" with "foothold". Provides that the diameter of traps shall be measured from the inside edges of the outer most portion of the jaws of the trap. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18386 WRO 31828 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 2.33a as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.33a) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.33a)

7 Sec. 2.33a. Trapping.

8 (a) It is unlawful to fail to visit and remove all animals  
9 from traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed or maintained  
10 at least once each calendar day.

11 (b) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use, or  
12 maintain a foothold ~~leghold~~ trap or one of similar  
13 construction on land, that has a jaw spread of larger than 6  
14 1/2 inches (16.6 CM), or a body-gripping trap or one of similar  
15 construction having a jaw spread larger than 7 inches (17.8  
16 CM) on a side if square and 8 inches (20.4 CM) if round. The  
17 diameter of traps shall be measured from the inside edges of  
18 the outer most portion of the jaws of the trap.

19 (c) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use, or  
20 maintain a foothold ~~leghold~~ trap or one of similar  
21 construction in water, that has a jaw spread of larger than 7  
22 1/2 inches (19.1 CM), or a body-gripping trap or one of similar  
23 construction having a jaw spread larger than 10 inches (25.4

1 CM) on a side if square and 12 inches (30.5 CM) if round. The  
2 diameter of traps shall be measured from the inside edges of  
3 the outer most portion of the jaws of the trap.

4 (d) It is unlawful to use any trap with saw-toothed,  
5 spiked, or toothed jaws.

6 (e) It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or in any manner  
7 interfere with dams, lodges, burrows or feed beds of beaver  
8 while trapping for beaver or to set a trap inside a muskrat  
9 house or beaver lodge, except that this shall not apply to  
10 individuals who are acting pursuant to the provisions of  
11 Section 2.37 or as provided for by administrative rule.

12 (f) It is unlawful to trap beaver or river otter with: (1)  
13 a foothold ~~leghold~~ trap or one of similar construction having  
14 an inside ~~a~~ jaw spread of less than 5 1/2 inches (13.9 CM) or  
15 more than 8 1/2 inches (21.59 CM) ~~7 1/2 inches (19.1 CM)~~, or (2)  
16 a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction having a  
17 jaw spread of less than 7 inches (17.7 CM) or more than 10  
18 inches (25.4 CM) on a side if square and 12 inches (30.5 CM) if  
19 round, except that these restrictions shall not apply during  
20 the open season for trapping raccoons. The diameter of traps  
21 shall be measured from the inside edges of the outer most  
22 portion of the jaws of the trap.

23 (g) It is unlawful to set traps closer than 10 feet (3.05  
24 M) from any hole or den which may be occupied by a game mammal  
25 or fur-bearing mammal except that this restriction shall not  
26 apply to water sets.

1 (h) It is unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any  
2 fur-bearing mammal with any colony, cage, box, or stove-pipe  
3 trap designed to take more than one mammal at a single setting.

4 (i) It is unlawful for any person to set or place any trap  
5 designed to take any fur-bearing mammal protected by this Act  
6 during the closed trapping season. Proof that any trap was  
7 placed during the closed trapping season shall be deemed prima  
8 facie evidence of a violation of this provision.

9 (j) It is unlawful to place, set, or maintain any foothold  
10 ~~leghold~~ trap or one of similar construction within thirty (30)  
11 feet (9.14 m) of bait placed in such a manner or position that  
12 it is not completely covered and concealed from sight, except  
13 that this shall not apply to underwater sets. Bait shall mean  
14 and include any bait composed of mammal, bird, or fish flesh,  
15 fur, hide, entrails or feathers.

16 (k) (Blank).

17 (l) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use or  
18 maintain a snare trap or one of similar construction in water,  
19 that has a loop diameter exceeding 15 inches (38.1 CM) or a  
20 cable or wire diameter of more than 1/8 inch (3.2 MM) or less  
21 than 5/64 inch (2.0 MM), that is constructed of stainless  
22 steel metal cable or wire, and that does not have a mechanical  
23 lock, anchor swivel and stop device to prevent the mechanical  
24 lock from closing the noose loop to a diameter of less than 2  
25 1/2 inches (6.4 CM).

26 (m) It is unlawful to trap muskrat or mink with (1) a

1 foothold ~~leghold~~ trap or one of similar construction or (2) a  
2 body-gripping trap or one of similar construction unless the  
3 body-gripping trap or similar trap is completely submerged  
4 underwater when set. These restrictions shall not apply during  
5 the open season for trapping raccoons.

6 (Source: P.A. 103-37, eff. 6-9-23.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.