

# SB2422



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2422

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Patrick J. Joyce

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/3.1-6

Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that deer, turkey, and combination permits shall be issued to specified Illinois resident landowners and tenants without charge. Provides that the total number of deer, turkey, and combination permits that may be issued by the Department of Natural Resources shall be set by rule. Defines terms and adds tenants, bona fide current income beneficiaries of a trust, and bona fide landowners to certain provisions. Requires permits under the amendatory Act to be on a hunter's person at all times while hunting.

LRB104 09344 BDA 19402 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 3.1-6 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/3.1-6)

7 Sec. 3.1-6. Landowner or tenant ~~Special~~ deer, turkey, and  
8 combination hunting permits ~~licenses~~.

9 (a) For the purpose of this Section:

10 "Bona fide current income beneficiary" means, an  
11 individual who, at the time of application for a permit, is  
12 entitled, with no condition precedent other than the trustee  
13 distributing the income, to income from the trust that owns  
14 Illinois land the applicant wishes to hunt, regardless of  
15 whether income exists or not, and is listed by name in the  
16 trust documents as an income beneficiary.

17 "Bona fide equity member" means an individual who:

18 (1) (i) became a member upon the formation of the  
19 limited liability company or (ii) has purchased a  
20 distributional interest in a limited liability company for  
21 a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of  
22 the LLC assets represented by the distributional interest  
23 in the LLC and subsequently becomes a member of the

1 company under Article 30 of the Limited Liability Company  
2 Act; and

3 (2) intends to retain the membership for at least 5  
4 years.

5 "Bona fide equity partner" means an individual who:

6 (1) (i) became a partner, either general or limited,  
7 upon the formation of a partnership or limited  
8 partnership, or (ii) has purchased, acquired, or been  
9 gifted a partnership interest accurately representing his  
10 or her percentage distributional interest in the profits,  
11 losses, and assets of a partnership or limited  
12 partnership;

13 (2) intends to retain ownership of the partnership  
14 interest for at least 5 years; and

15 (3) is a resident of this State.

16 "Bona fide equity shareholder" means an individual who:

17 (1) purchased, for market price, publicly sold stock  
18 shares in a corporation, purchased shares of a  
19 privately-held corporation for a value equal to the  
20 percentage of the appraised value of the corporate assets  
21 represented by the ownership in the corporation, or is a  
22 member of a closely-held family-owned corporation and has  
23 purchased or been gifted with shares of stock in the  
24 corporation accurately reflecting his or her percentage of  
25 ownership; and

26 (2) intends to retain the ownership of the shares of

1 stock for at least 5 years.

2 "Bona fide landowner" means a person that owns land in  
3 this State and whose name appear on the title to the land and  
4 not as a part of a trust, corporation, limited liability  
5 company, or partnership.

6 "Tenant" means a person who rents 40 acres or more of land  
7 in this State for commercial agricultural purposes under a  
8 written notarized agreement with the landowner.

9 (b) Landowner deer ~~Deer~~, turkey ~~Turkey~~, and combination  
10 permits shall be issued without charge to an Illinois resident  
11 who owns at least 40 acres of Illinois land and wishes to hunt  
12 only on land that the Illinois resident owns. Land ownership  
13 shall be accepted by the Department only for the following  
14 types of landowners, beneficiaries, and shareholders:

15 (1) bona fide ~~Illinois~~ landowners ~~residing in this~~  
16 ~~State who own at least 40 acres of Illinois land and wish~~  
17 ~~to hunt upon their land only;~~

18 (2) bona fide current income beneficiaries of a trust  
19 that owns land in this State ~~resident tenants of at least~~  
20 ~~40 acres of commercial agricultural land where they will~~  
21 ~~hunt;~~ and

22 (3) bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation,  
23 bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
24 or bona fide equity partners of a general or limited  
25 partnership which owns ~~at least 40 acres of land in a~~  
26 ~~county in this State who wish to hunt on the~~

1 ~~corporation's, company's, or partnership's land only. One~~  
2 ~~permit shall be issued without charge to one bona fide~~  
3 ~~equity shareholder, one bona fide equity member, or one~~  
4 ~~bona fide equity partner for each 40 acres of land owned by~~  
5 ~~the corporation, company, or partnership in a county,~~  
6 ~~however, the number of permits issued without charge to~~  
7 ~~bona fide equity shareholders of any corporation or bona~~  
8 ~~fide equity members of a limited liability company in any~~  
9 ~~county shall not exceed 15, and shall not exceed 3 in the~~  
10 ~~case of bona fide equity partners of a partnership.~~

11 (c) Tenant deer, turkey, or combination permits shall be  
12 issued without charge to Illinois resident tenants of at least  
13 40 acres of commercial agricultural land who wish to hunt only  
14 upon the land upon which they are resident tenants.

15 (d) The total number of deer, turkey, or combination  
16 hunting permits that may be issued to a person shall be set by  
17 the Department by administrative rule.

18 (e) Bona fide landowners or tenants who do not wish to hunt  
19 only on the land they own, tenants who do not wish to hunt only  
20 the land they rent, or lease, or bona fide equity  
21 shareholders, bona fide equity members, bona fide current  
22 income beneficiaries of a trust, or bona fide equity partners  
23 who do not wish to hunt only on the land owned by the  
24 corporation, limited liability company, trust, or partnership  
25 shall be charged the same fee as the applicant who is not a  
26 bona fide landowner, Illinois resident tenant, bona fide

1 equity shareholder, bona fide equity member, bona fide current  
2 income beneficiary of a trust, or bona fide equity partner.  
3 Nonresidents of this State who own at least 40 acres of land as  
4 a bona fide landowner, a bona fide current income beneficiary  
5 of a trust, a bona fide equity shareholder, or a bona fide  
6 equity member and wish to hunt on their land only shall be  
7 charged a fee set by administrative rule. The method for  
8 obtaining these permits shall be prescribed by administrative  
9 rule.

10 (f) ~~(e)~~ The deer, turkey, or combination hunting permit  
11 issued without fee shall be valid on all Illinois farm lands  
12 which the person to whom it is issued owns, which shall only  
13 include land owned by the individual as a bona fide landowner,  
14 land owned as a bona fide equity shareholder of a corporation,  
15 land owned by the individual as a bona fide equity member of a  
16 limited liability company or land owned by the individual as a  
17 bona fide equity partner of a partnership., ~~leases or rents,~~  
18 ~~except that in the case of a permit issued to a bona fide~~  
19 ~~equity shareholder, bona fide equity member, or bona fide~~  
20 ~~equity partner, the permit shall be valid on all lands owned by~~  
21 ~~the corporation, limited liability company, or partnership in~~  
22 ~~the county.~~

23 (g) Any person that is issued a permit under this Section  
24 must have on their person at all times, while hunting pursuant  
25 to that permit, the permit so issued as well as documentation  
26 showing proof of their status for the land upon which they are

1 hunting, which shows that they are a bona fide landowner, a  
2 bona fide equity shareholder of a corporation, a bona fide  
3 equity member of a limited liability company, a bona fide  
4 current income beneficiary, a bona fide equity partner of a  
5 general or limited partnership, or an Illinois resident  
6 tenant.

7 (Source: P.A. 99-869, eff. 1-1-17.)