

1 AN ACT in relation to deer hunting.

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 Sections 2.25 and 2.26 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.25) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.25)

7 Sec. 2.25. It shall be unlawful for any person to take  
8 deer except (i) with a shotgun, handgun, or muzzleloading  
9 rifle or (ii) ~~as provided by administrative rule~~, with a bow  
10 and arrow, or crossbow device for handicapped persons as  
11 defined in Section 2.33, during the open season of not more  
12 than 14 days which will be set annually by the Director  
13 between the dates of November 1st and December 31st, both  
14 inclusive. For the purposes of this Section, legal handguns  
15 include any centerfire handguns of .30 caliber or larger with  
16 a minimum barrel length of 4 inches. The only legal  
17 ammunition for a centerfire handgun is a cartridge of .30  
18 caliber or larger with a capability of at least 500 foot  
19 pounds of energy at the muzzle. Full metal jacket bullets  
20 may not be used to harvest deer.

21 The Department shall make administrative rules concerning  
22 management restrictions applicable to the firearm and bow and  
23 arrow season.

24 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
25 with a bow and arrow, or crossbow device for handicapped  
26 persons (as defined in Section 2.33), during the open season  
27 for bow and arrow set annually by the Director between the  
28 dates of September 1st and January 31st, both inclusive.

29 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
30 with (i) a muzzleloading rifle, or (ii) bow and arrow, or  
31 crossbow device for handicapped persons as defined in Section

1 2.33, during the open season for muzzleloading rifles set  
2 annually by the Director.

3 The Director shall cause an administrative rule setting  
4 forth the prescribed rules and regulations, including bag and  
5 possession limits and those counties of the State where open  
6 seasons are established, to be published in accordance with  
7 Sections 1.3 and 1.13 of this Act.

8 The Department is authorized to establish a separate  
9 harvest period at specific sites within the State for the  
10 purpose of harvesting surplus deer that cannot be taken  
11 during the regular season provided for the taking of deer.  
12 This season shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow  
13 hunting only and shall be established during the period of  
14 September 1st to February 15th, both inclusive. The  
15 Department shall publish suitable prescribed rules and  
16 regulations established by administrative rule pertaining to  
17 management restrictions applicable to this special harvest  
18 program.

19 (Source: P.A. 86-1188; 87-126; 87-234; 87-895; 87-1015;  
20 87-1243; 87-1268.)

21 (520 ILCS 5/2.26) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.26)

22 Sec. 2.26. Any person attempting to take deer shall  
23 first obtain a "Deer Hunting Permit" in accordance with  
24 prescribed regulations set forth in an Administrative Rule.  
25 Deer Hunting Permits shall be issued by the Department. The  
26 fee for a Deer Hunting Permit to take deer with either bow  
27 and arrow or gun shall not exceed \$15.00 for residents of the  
28 State. The Department may by administrative rule provide for  
29 non-resident deer hunting permits for which the fee will not  
30 exceed \$100 except as provided below for non-resident  
31 landowners. Permits shall be issued without charge to:

32 (a) Illinois landowners residing in Illinois who  
33 own at least 40 acres of Illinois land and wish to hunt

1 their land only,

2 (b) resident tenants of at least 40 acres of  
3 commercial agricultural land where they will hunt, and

4 (c) shareholders of a corporation which owns at  
5 least 40 acres of land in a county in Illinois who wish  
6 to hunt on the corporation's land only. One permit shall  
7 be issued without charge to one shareholder for each 40  
8 acres of land owned by the corporation in a county;  
9 however, the number of permits issued without charge to  
10 shareholders of any corporation in any county shall not  
11 exceed 15.

12 Bona fide landowners or tenants who do not wish to hunt  
13 only on the land they own, rent or lease or shareholders who  
14 do not wish to hunt only on the land owned by the corporation  
15 shall be charged the same fee as the applicant who is not a  
16 landowner, tenant or shareholder. Nonresidents of Illinois  
17 who own at least 40 acres of land and wish to hunt on their  
18 land only shall be charged a fee set by administrative rule.  
19 The method for obtaining these permits shall be prescribed by  
20 administrative rule.

21 The deer hunting permit issued without fee shall be valid  
22 on all farm lands which the person to whom it is issued owns,  
23 leases or rents, except that in the case of a permit issued  
24 to a shareholder, the permit shall be valid on all lands  
25 owned by the corporation in the county.

26 The Department may set aside, in accordance with the  
27 prescribed regulations set forth in an administrative rule of  
28 the Department, a limited number of Deer Hunting Permits to  
29 be available to persons providing evidence of a contractual  
30 arrangement to hunt on properties controlled by a bona fide  
31 Illinois outfitter. The number of available permits shall be  
32 based on a percentage of unfilled permits remaining after the  
33 previous year's lottery. Eligible outfitters shall be those  
34 having membership in, and accreditation conferred by, a

1 professional association of outfitters approved by the  
2 Department. The association shall be responsible for setting  
3 professional standards and codes of conduct for its  
4 membership, subject to Departmental approval. In addition to  
5 the fee normally charged for resident and nonresident  
6 permits, a reservation fee not to exceed \$200 shall be  
7 charged to the outfitter for each permit set aside in  
8 accordance with this Act. The reservation fee shall be  
9 deposited into the Wildlife and Fish Fund.

10 The standards and specifications for use of guns and bow  
11 and arrow for deer hunting shall be established by  
12 administrative rule.

13 No person may have in his possession any firearm not  
14 authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting  
15 season when taking deer.

16 Persons having a firearm deer hunting permit shall be  
17 permitted to take deer only during the period from 1/2 hour  
18 before sunrise to sunset, and only during those days for  
19 which an open season is established for the taking of deer by  
20 use of shotgun, handgun, or muzzle loading rifle.

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

26 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer by use  
27 of dogs, horses, automobiles, aircraft or other vehicles, or  
28 by the use of salt or bait of any kind. An area is  
29 considered as baited during the presence of and for 10  
30 consecutive days following the removal of bait.

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

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

4           It shall be unlawful for any person, having taken the  
5 legal limit of deer by gun, to further participate with gun  
6 in any deer hunting party.

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

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

12          It shall be legal for handicapped persons, as defined in  
13 Section 2.33, to utilize a crossbow device, as defined in  
14 Department rules, to take deer.

15          Any person who violates any of the provisions of this  
16 Section, including administrative rules, shall be guilty of a  
17 Class B misdemeanor.

18          (Source: P.A. 89-715, eff. 2-21-97; 90-225, eff. 7-25-97;  
19 90-490, eff. 8-17-97; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

20          Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.