

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 Sections 2.26 and 3.1-5 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 \$25.00 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, through  
12 administrative rule, additional requirements pertaining to the  
13 youth-only deer hunting season on Department-owned or  
14 Department-managed sites, including site-specific quotas or  
15 drawings. The provisions of this paragraph are inoperative on  
16 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 season  
22 when taking deer.

23 Persons having a firearm deer hunting permit shall be  
24 permitted to take deer only during the period from 1/2 hour  
25 before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, and only during those  
26 days for which an open season is established for the taking of

1 deer by use of shotgun, handgun, or muzzle loading rifle.

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

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

1 pink color as required. Dog handlers tracking wounded deer with  
2 a dog are exempt from hunting license and deer permit  
3 requirements so long as they are accompanied by the licensed  
4 deer hunter who wounded the deer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this  
23 Section, including administrative rules, shall be guilty of a  
24 Class B misdemeanor.

25 For the purposes of calculating acreage under this Section,  
26 the Department shall, after determining the total acreage of

1 the applicable tract or tracts of land, round remaining  
2 fractional portions of an acre greater than or equal to half of  
3 an acre up to the next whole acre.

4 For the purposes of taking white-tailed deer, nothing in  
5 this Section shall be construed to prevent the manipulation,  
6 including mowing or cutting, of standing crops as a normal  
7 agricultural or soil stabilization practice, food plots, or  
8 normal agricultural practices, including planting, harvesting,  
9 and maintenance such as cultivating or the use of products  
10 designed for scent only and not capable of ingestion, solid or  
11 liquid, placed or scattered, in such a manner as to attract or  
12 lure deer. Such manipulation for the purpose of taking  
13 white-tailed deer may be further modified by administrative  
14 rule.

15 (Source: P.A. 99-642, eff. 7-28-16; 99-869, eff. 1-1-17;  
16 100-691, eff. 1-1-19; 100-949, eff. 1-1-19; revised 10-9-18.)

17 (520 ILCS 5/3.1-5)

18 Sec. 3.1-5. Apprentice Hunter License Program.

19 (a) The Department shall establish an Apprentice Hunter  
20 License Program. The purpose of this Program shall be to extend  
21 limited hunting privileges, in lieu of obtaining a valid  
22 hunting license, to persons interested in learning about  
23 hunting sports.

24 (b) Any resident or nonresident may apply to the Department  
25 for an Apprentice Hunter License. The Apprentice Hunter License

1 shall be a ~~one-time~~, non-renewable license that shall expire on  
2 the March 31 following the date of issuance.

3 (c) The Apprentice Hunter License shall entitle the  
4 licensee to hunt on private property while supervised by a  
5 validly licensed resident or nonresident hunter who is 21 years  
6 of age or older.

7 (c-5) The Apprentice Hunter License shall entitle the  
8 licensee to hunt on public property while supervised by a  
9 validly licensed resident or nonresident who is 21 years of age  
10 or older and has a hunter education certificate.

11 (d) In order to be approved for the Apprentice Hunter  
12 License, the applicant must request an Apprentice Hunter  
13 License on a form designated and made available by the  
14 Department and submit a \$7 fee, which shall be separate from  
15 and additional to any other stamp, permit, tag, or license fee  
16 that may be required for hunting under this Code. The  
17 Department shall adopt suitable administrative rules that are  
18 reasonable and necessary for the administration of the program,  
19 but shall not require any certificate of competency or other  
20 hunting education as a condition of the Apprentice Hunter  
21 License.

22 (Source: P.A. 100-638, eff. 1-1-19.)