

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, 62706GEORGE H. RYAN
GOVERNOR

August 10, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois House of Representatives
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto House Bill 417 entitled "AN ACT concerning wildlife."

House Bill 417 amends the Wildlife Code to delete the statutory provisions setting the time frames during which certain public seasons for deer hunting by gun, and bow and arrow, may be set. Specifically, the bill removes the 14-day limits for certain deer hunting seasons. The bill also provides that while deer hunting, no person may possess any type of gun (now firearm) not authorized by the appropriate administrative rule. House Bill 417 will allow the Director of the Department of Natural Resources to set the deer hunting season by Administrative Rule annually, at his direction.

Although the main purpose of House Bill 417 is to provide the Department of Natural Resources with more flexibility in managing the white-tailed deer population, I do not believe the benefit of such flexibility outweighs the confusion that may result if specific timeframes for hunting are removed from the Wildlife Code. The current Wildlife Code allows the hunting season to be set annually between the dates of November 1st and December 31st by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. It is my belief that these set timeframes help the sportsmen more consistently plan their hunting season. This consistency ensures that sportsmen will know when open season hunting will take place year after year, and would result in more consistent hunting. I do not feel that eliminating the dates in which open season is allowed will have any more of a beneficial effect on managing the deer populations. Indeed, I do feel that changing the dates could have an adverse effect by having fewer sportsmen participate due to the inconsistency of the season, from year to year.

For these reasons, I hereby veto and return House Bill 417.

Sincerely,
s/GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor