

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 67 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN AND STREET, MARCH 3, 2025

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 3, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
 2 Statutes, in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further providing
 3 for organization of commission; in game or wildlife
 4 protection, further providing for regulations, for report to
 5 commission officer, for surrender of carcass to commission
 6 officer and for unlawful activities; and, in hunting and
 7 furtaking, repealing provisions relating to hunting on Sunday
 8 prohibited, further providing for unlawful devices and
 9 methods and for the offense of trespass on private property
 10 while hunting and repealing provisions relating to hunting on
 11 Sunday without written permission.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 301(a) of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania
 15 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
 16 adding subsections to read:

17 § 301. Organization of commission.

18 (a) Composition.--[The] Subject to subsection (b.1), the
 19 independent administrative commission known as the Pennsylvania
 20 Game Commission shall consist of nine competent citizens of this
 21 Commonwealth who shall be well informed on the subject of
 22 wildlife conservation and restoration and who shall be appointed
 23 by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of a

1 majority of the elected members of the Senate.

2 * * *

3 (b.1) Additional consideration.--The Governor shall ensure
4 that at least one member of the commission represents the
5 interest of agricultural commodities that pertain to normal
6 agricultural operations and wildlife.

7 * * *

8 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
9 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
10 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Agricultural commodity." As defined in section 2 of the act
12 of June 10, 1982 (P.L.454, No.133), referred to as the Right-to-
13 Farm Law.

14 "Normal agricultural operation." As defined in section 2 of
15 the Right-to-Farm Law.

16 Section 2. Sections 2102(b)(2), 2122 and 2125 of Title 34
17 are amended to read:

18 § 2102. Regulations.

19 * * *

20 (b) Seasons, possession, bag limits and devices.--

21 * * *

22 (2) If in any year the commission fails to establish
23 seasons or bag limits or fails to establish other hunting or
24 furtaking regulations under authority of this title, the open
25 seasons and bag limits for game or furbearers[, **Sundays**
26 **excepted**], unless otherwise provided by this title, and all
27 other hunting or furtaking regulations adopted under
28 authority of this title, shall be the same as set by
29 regulation of the commission for the previous license year,
30 and all seasons shall open and close one calendar day earlier

1 than the previous license year. In the event the commission
2 fails to establish seasons and bag limits for a license year
3 beginning in a leap year, the seasons shall open and close
4 two calendar days earlier than the previous license year.

5 * * *

6 § 2122. Report to commission officer.

7 Any person who kills any game or wildlife, other than
8 raccoons, under the provisions of this subchapter shall, within
9 24 hours, report, orally or in writing, the killing to an
10 officer of the commission. The report shall set forth the date,
11 time and place of the killing, the number of species killed
12 [and], the sex of the species[.] and the location of each
13 carcass. The commission shall establish a self-reporting system
14 that allows a person assigned to remove deer for crop damage
15 purposes to report each harvest to an officer of the commission
16 via a toll-free telephone number, online application or publicly
17 accessible Internet website.

18 § 2125. Surrender of carcass [to commission officer].

19 Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the entire
20 carcass, including the head and hide[,] of all big game animals
21 and the entire carcass of any other game or wildlife, other than
22 raccoons, less entrails, shall be made available, unless
23 otherwise directed by an officer of the commission, intact[,]
24 less entrails,] to any commission officer calling for them[.] or
25 delivered to a processor for final disposition. As used in this
26 section, the term "processor" means a location specified by the
27 commission that is willing to accept donations of animals taken
28 under this chapter.

29 Section 3. Section 2126(a) heading of Title 34 is amended
30 and subsections (a) and (b) are amended by adding paragraphs to

1 read:

2 § 2126. Unlawful activities.

3 (a) [General rule] Violations.--It is unlawful for any
4 person while acting under the provisions of this subchapter to:

5 * * *

6 (8.1) Fail to obtain written permission to hunt on a
7 Sunday.

8 * * *

9 (b) Penalties.--

10 * * *

11 (4) A violation of this subchapter pertaining to written
12 permission is a summary offense of the third degree.

13 Section 4. Section 2303 of Title 34 is repealed:

14 [~~§ 2303. Hunting on Sunday prohibited.~~]

15 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in this
16 title, it is unlawful for any person to hunt for any furbearer
17 or game on Sunday.

18 (b) Construction of section.--This section shall not be
19 construed to prohibit:

20 (1) The training of dogs.

21 (2) The participation in dog trials as provided for in
22 this title.

23 (3) The removal of lawfully taken game or wildlife from
24 traps or the resetting of the traps on Sunday.

25 (b.1) Exceptions.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to:

26 (1) The hunting of foxes.

27 (2) The hunting of coyotes.

28 (3) Any hunting which occurs on noncommercial regulated
29 hunting grounds holding a valid permit under section 2928(b)

30 (2) (relating to regulated hunting grounds permits).

1 (4) Hunting on three Sundays each calendar year, as
2 follows:

3 (i) One day of Sunday hunting shall be instituted by
4 the commission during the deer rifle season.

5 (ii) One day of Sunday hunting shall be instituted
6 by the commission during the Statewide deer archery
7 season.

8 (iii) One day of Sunday hunting as determined by the
9 commission shall be instituted by the commission.

10 Authority to hunt on any Sunday instituted by the commission
11 under this paragraph shall not apply to any person required
12 to secure a hunting license who attempts to hunt on private
13 land without obtaining written permission of the landowner,
14 an agent of the landowner or lessee.

15 (c) Penalty.--A violation of this section is a summary
16 offense of the fifth degree.]

17 Section 5. Section 2308(b) of Title 34 is amended by adding
18 a paragraph to read:

19 § 2308. Unlawful devices and methods.

20 * * *

21 (b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not
22 apply to:

23 * * *

24 (7) Natural deer urine for the purposes of taking,
25 attempting to take, attracting or scouting wildlife that
26 meets all of the following criteria:

27 (i) Has no detectable levels of chronic wasting
28 disease prions.

29 (ii) Is labeled as being tested using real-time
30 quaking-induced conversion assay or another commercially

1 available testing method that detects the presence of
2 chronic wasting disease prions. For the purposes of this
3 subparagraph, the Department of Agriculture may randomly
4 select natural deer urine products for testing on a
5 biannual basis. The Department of Agriculture shall pay
6 for the costs incurred for testing under this
7 subparagraph.

8 * * *

9 Section 6. Section 2314(a) and (c) of Title 34 are amended
10 to read:

11 § 2314. Trespass on private property while hunting.

12 (a) [General rule] Trespass.--A person, while engaged in
13 hunting or furtaking, commits an offense if, knowing that the
14 person is not licensed or privileged to do so, the person:

15 (1) enters or remains on any land of another without
16 authorization to do so, when the land is posted in a manner
17 prescribed by law or reasonably likely to come to the
18 person's attention [or is fenced or enclosed in a manner
19 manifestly designed to exclude trespassers; or];

20 (2) enters or remains on any land of another without
21 authorization and defies an order not to enter or to leave
22 that has been personally communicated to the person by the
23 owner of the land or other authorized person[.];

24 (3) enters or remains on any land of another without
25 authorization to do so, when the land is fenced or enclosed
26 in a manner manifestly designed to exclude trespassers; or

27 (4) subject to subsection (b), enters or remains on any
28 land of another without authorization to do so when notice
29 against trespass is given by the placement of identifying
30 purple paint marks on trees or posts on the property, in

1 accordance with 18 Pa.C.S. § 3503(b)(1)(vi) (relating to
2 criminal trespass).

3 * * *

4 (c) Penalty.--An offense under this section shall be graded
5 as follows:

6 (1) A person who violates subsection (a)(1), (3) or (4)
7 commits a summary offense of the [third degree.] second
8 degree and may result in forfeiture of the privilege to hunt
9 or take game or wildlife anywhere within this Commonwealth
10 for a period of up to one year.

11 (2) A person who violates subsection (a)(2) commits a
12 misdemeanor[.] and shall result in forfeiture of the
13 privilege to hunt or take game or wildlife anywhere within
14 this Commonwealth for a period of three years.

15 (3) A person who commits a second or subsequent
16 violation of this section within a seven-year period commits
17 a misdemeanor, and the second or subsequent violation shall
18 result in forfeiture of the privilege to hunt or take game or
19 wildlife anywhere within this Commonwealth for a period of
20 [one year] five years.

21 * * *

22 Section 7. Section 2315 of Title 34 is repealed:

23 [§ 2315. Hunting on Sunday without written permission.

24 (a) General rule.--A person required to secure a hunting
25 license to hunt commits an offense if, while engaged in hunting
26 on Sunday under section 2303(b.1)(4) (relating to hunting on
27 Sunday prohibited), the person enters private land without
28 obtaining written permission of the landowner, an agent of the
29 landowner or lessee.

30 (b) Penalty.--A person who violates subsection (a) commits a

1 summary offense of the third degree.]

2 Section 8. This act shall take effect in 60 days.