

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2365 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY KULIK, STAATS, OLSOMMER, PASHINSKI, HADDOCK, STEELE AND NEILSON, APRIL 7, 2026

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 14, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for
3 definitions; in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further
4 providing for junior hunter projects; in hunting and
5 furtaking, further providing for prima facie evidence of
6 hunting and repealing provisions relating to trapping
7 exception for certain persons; and, in hunting and furtaking <--
8 licenses, further providing for license requirements, for
9 eligibility for license and for unlawful acts concerning
10 licenses; AND, IN SPECIAL LICENSES AND PERMITS, FURTHER <--
11 PROVIDING FOR PERMIT FEES.

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

14 Section 1. Section 102 of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania
15 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:
16 § 102. Definitions.

17 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
18 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific
19 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when
20 used in this title shall have the meanings given to them in this
21 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 "Accompany." Be within close proximity to another person so

1 that verbal instructions and guidance can be easily understood
2 without the aid or use of an electronic or sound amplification
3 device.

4 * * *

5 "Furtaking." Any act or furtherance of the taking or killing
6 of any furbearer, or any part or product thereof, including, but
7 not limited to, chasing, tracking, calling, pursuing, lying in
8 wait, trapping, shooting at, including shooting at a furbearer
9 facsimile; wounding with any device or implement; using any
10 personal property, including dogs, or the property of others, of
11 any nature, in furtherance of any of these purposes; or aiding,
12 abetting or conspiring with another person in that purpose.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. Sections 327(b)(1) and 2301(b) of Title 34 are
15 amended to read:

16 § 327. Junior hunter projects.

17 * * *

18 (b) Specific projects.--

19 (1) One of the projects shall consist of at least two
20 free hunting days for persons qualified to receive a junior
21 hunting license under section 2705(2) or (9) and who have
22 successfully completed the hunter education requirements
23 under section [2704(b)] 2704(b.1) (relating to eligibility
24 for license). The commission shall establish the days, times
25 and species which may be taken during the free hunting days.

26 * * *

27 § 2301. Prima facie evidence of hunting.

28 * * *

29 (b) Lawful cooperation or assistance.--Notwithstanding any
30 other provision of this title to the contrary, any person who

1 has lawfully taken the bag or season limit for a particular
2 species of game or wildlife [or any person who meets the
3 requirements of section 2701(c) (relating to license
4 requirements)] may aid, assist, abet or cooperate in any manner
5 specified by this title or commission regulations with another
6 person who is engaged in any lawful activity permitted by this
7 title or the regulations of the commission.

8 Section 3. Section 2363 of Title 34 is repealed:

9 [§ 2363. Trapping exception for certain persons.

10 Except for section 2704(c) (relating to furtaker's
11 certificate of training), the remaining provisions of this title
12 shall not be construed to prevent or prohibit any person under
13 12 years of age from trapping furbearers. Persons covered by
14 this section shall not use any firearm other than a .22 caliber
15 rimfire rifle or sidearm and then only when accompanied by an
16 adult.]

17 Section 4. Sections 2701, ~~2704 and 2711~~ 2704, 2711 AND <--
18 2904(A) (9) of Title 34 are amended to read:

19 § 2701. License requirements.

20 (a) General rule.--Except in defense of person or property
21 or pursuant to exemptions authorized in this title [or by
22 regulation of the commission for implementing a mentored hunting
23 program], every person, prior to engaging in any of the
24 privileges granted by this title, shall first obtain the
25 applicable license subject to any conditions or other
26 requirements imposed by this title.

27 (b) Only one license valid.--Only one full-term or distinct
28 hunting license and furtaking license shall be valid during any
29 full-term license year. The issuance of any replacement license
30 or the purchase of a second or subsequent license of any class

1 shall immediately and automatically invalidate any license and
2 harvest tags of the same kind which had been previously issued.

3 [(c) Exception.--Any person who has never held a hunting
4 license in Pennsylvania or any other state may participate in
5 the hunting and trapping activities authorized under this title
6 or commission regulations without compliance with subsection (a)
7 or section 2704 (relating to eligibility for license) if that
8 person satisfies all of the following requirements:

9 (1) The person who participates in the hunting or
10 trapping activities must always be in sight of and close
11 enough to a licensed hunter who is at least 18 years of age
12 to clearly hear and understand instructions communicated to
13 the person through normal conversation without the aid of any
14 device. The licensed hunter shall have a valid hunting
15 license for the game or wildlife they are hunting or qualify
16 for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 (relating
17 to resident license and fee exemptions).

18 (2) The unlicensed person may not possess, convey or use
19 any firearm, bow or any other device that may be used to
20 harvest game or furbearers.

21 (3) The unlicensed person must be in compliance with
22 section 2524 (relating to protective material required) and
23 with any regulations promulgated by the commission related to
24 protective material.

25 (4) The unlicensed person who participates in any
26 hunting party shall be listed on any required hunting roster
27 and shall count as a member of the hunting party for purposes
28 of section 2324 (relating to roster of parties hunting big
29 game) and commission regulations relating to big game animal
30 hunting roster and parties hunting small game.

1 (5) For the purposes of this section, at no time shall a
2 licensed hunter accompany more than one unlicensed person.]

3 § 2704. Eligibility for license.

4 [(a) General rule.--Persons meeting the requirements of this
5 title who have reached or will reach their 12th birthday in the
6 calendar year of application or who are older, whose hunting and
7 furtaking privileges are valid and who shall meet the
8 application requirements set forth in this title and pay the
9 prescribed license cost and issuance fee shall be eligible to
10 obtain the applicable hunting or furtaking license.

11 (b) Hunter education.--Persons who have not held a hunting
12 license lawfully issued to them in this Commonwealth or another
13 state or nation or have not hunted under the exceptions in
14 section 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions)
15 or do not possess a certificate of training approved by the
16 director prior to the enactment of this title shall be required
17 to attain accreditation in a hunter education program approved
18 by the director before a hunting license is issued to them. The
19 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a person who
20 presents:

21 (1) Evidence of service in the armed forces of the
22 United States or in the United States Coast Guard and
23 discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six
24 months of the date of application.

25 (2) Evidence that the person is currently serving in the
26 armed forces of the United States or in the United States
27 Coast Guard.

28 (c) Furtaker's certificate of training.--No resident or
29 nonresident furtaker's license shall be issued to any applicant
30 unless the applicant presents to the agent authorized to issue

1 the license any one of the following:

2 (1) Evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or
3 furtaker's license issued by another state or nation.

4 (2) A certificate of training issued under this section.

5 (3) A certification signed by the applicant on the
6 furtaker's license application that the applicant completed a
7 voluntary trapping course sponsored by the commission or that
8 the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers
9 within the last five years.

10 The provisions of this section shall not apply to those persons
11 under 12 years of age who trap furbearers under the direct
12 supervision of an adult licensed furtaker 18 years of age or
13 older.]

14 (a.1) General eligibility requirements.--A person shall be
15 eligible to obtain the applicable hunting and furtaking license
16 if:

17 (1) the hunting and furtaking privileges of the person
18 are valid;

19 (2) the person meets the application requirements under
20 this title and the requirements under applicable regulations
21 set by the commission; and

22 (3) the person pays the prescribed license cost and
23 issuance fee.

24 (b.1) Education program requirements.--

25 (1) A person who is 12 years of age or older, or who
26 will reach 12 years of age within the license year of
27 application, shall, before a hunting or furtaking license is
28 issued to the person, attain accreditation in a hunter or
29 furtaker education program approved by the director.

30 (2) The accreditation requirement under paragraph (1)

1 does not apply in the following circumstances:

2 (i) The person is participating or has participated
3 in an apprentice license hunting or furtaking program
4 established by regulation of the commission. The
5 following apply:

6 (A) Regarding an apprentice junior hunting or
7 furtaking license:

8 (I) The license shall be available to a
9 person who is under 18 years of age at the time
10 of application and who does not hold a valid
11 certificate of training in a hunter or furtaker
12 education program approved by the director.

13 (II) The holder of the license shall comply
14 with applicable safety standards established
15 under this title or by regulation of the
16 commission.

17 (III) The license shall be available to an
18 eligible youth applicant who is under 12 years of
19 age for an unrestricted number of years.

20 (IV) The license shall be available to an
21 eligible youth applicant who is 12 years of age
22 or older but who is under 18 years of age for up
23 to a total of three license years. Previous
24 participation by the applicant in the apprentice
25 junior hunting or furtaking license program while
26 under 12 years of age shall reduce the
27 applicant's eligibility by the applicable number
28 of years of participation, up to three license
29 years.

30 (B) Regarding an apprentice adult hunting or

1 furtaking license:

2 (I) The license shall be available to a
3 person who is 18 years of age or older at the
4 time of application and who does not hold a valid
5 certificate of training in a hunter or furtaker
6 education program approved by the director.

7 (II) The holder of the license shall comply
8 with applicable safety standards established
9 under this title or by regulation of the
10 commission.

11 (III) The license shall be available to an
12 eligible adult applicant for up to a total of
13 three license years. Previous participation by
14 the applicant in the apprentice hunting or
15 furtaking license program while under 18 years of
16 age shall reduce the applicant's eligibility by
17 the applicable number of years of participation,
18 up to three license years.

19 (ii) The person presents evidence of current service
20 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces as
21 defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(4) (relating to
22 definitions) or previous service and discharge or
23 separation under honorable conditions within six months
24 of the date of application.

25 (iii) The person presents evidence of having held:

26 (A) a valid certificate of training in a hunter
27 or furtaker education program approved by the
28 director; or

29 (B) a valid hunting or furtaking license
30 lawfully issued to the person in another state or

1 nation.

2 (d) Duties of commission.--

3 (1) The commission shall provide for a course of
4 instruction, approved by the director, in the safe and
5 ethical [utilization] use of firearms and traps or other
6 devices used for taking furbearers. The commission may
7 cooperate with any reputable association or organization in
8 presentation of this course.

9 (2) The commission may designate any person who the
10 commission determines to be competent to give instruction in
11 the handling of firearms, traps or other devices to act as an
12 instructor. The appointed person shall give the course of
13 instruction and shall issue to each person who successfully
14 completes the course of instruction a certificate of training
15 in the handling of firearms, traps or other devices. No
16 charge shall be made for the course of instruction, except as
17 may be provided by this title or by regulations promulgated
18 under this title.

19 (3) The commission shall furnish information on the
20 requirements of the furtaker's education program which shall
21 be distributed, free of charge, to applicants for furtaker
22 licenses by the persons appointed and authorized to issue the
23 licenses.

24 [(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
25 those persons under 12 years of age who trap furbearers under
26 the direct supervision of an adult licensed furtaker 18 years
27 of age or older.]

28 (e) Compliance by certification.--The requirements of
29 subsection [(b) or (c)] (b.1) shall be deemed met by a
30 certification signed by the applicant on the license application

1 stating that the applicant has held accreditation in a hunter or
2 furtaker education program approved by the director or a license
3 issued by the Commonwealth or another state or nation in a prior
4 year but is unable to produce evidence of holding such license.

5 (f) Courses combined.--Subject to the approval of the
6 commission, the director may combine the courses of instruction
7 in hunter education and furtaker's training into one
8 comprehensive course.

9 (g) Hunter education in public schools.--Upon request of the
10 commission, all public school districts in this Commonwealth
11 shall make a school facility under their control available for
12 the purpose of conducting a hunter education course. Classes may
13 occur as an after-school or weekend function or any other day
14 when school is not in session. The commission shall, to the best
15 of its ability, work with the school to schedule classes for a
16 time that best suits both the school and the commission. All
17 classes shall comply with curriculum standards and program
18 policies established by the director. The commission shall
19 compensate the school for the actual cost incurred by the school
20 related to the commission's use of the facility. Fees may not be
21 charged to the public for the service under this section.

22 § 2711. Unlawful acts concerning licenses.

23 (a) [General rule] Prohibitions.--Except as otherwise
24 provided in this title, it is unlawful for any person to:

25 (1) Hunt or take any game or wildlife by any means or
26 manner or device, including the use of dogs, without first
27 securing and personally signing the required license. [The
28 required license must be carried on person when hunting,
29 furtaking or taking any game or wildlife within this
30 Commonwealth.]

1 (2) Procure a license in a name other than the person's
2 legal name, furnish an address other than his legal place of
3 residence and domicile or make any false or misleading
4 statement whatsoever in securing a license.

5 (3) Lend or transfer in any manner whatsoever a license
6 or game or wildlife kill tag to any other person regardless
7 of the purpose.

8 (4) Issue, acquire, possess or aid, assist or conspire,
9 either for that person or any other person, in procuring any
10 hunting or furtaking license or privilege for which that
11 person is not legally entitled thereto.

12 (5) Possess while hunting or taking game or wildlife or
13 going to or from hunting or taking game or wildlife any
14 report card, license tag, license stamp or game or wildlife
15 kill tag belonging to another.

16 (6) Except as provided under section 2705 (relating to
17 classes of licenses), receive a hunting or furtaking license
18 under any circumstances if under 12 years of age.

19 (7) Receive a hunting or furtaking license without
20 presenting a written request executed by a parent or legally
21 constituted guardian if under 17 years of age.

22 [(8) Use firearms of any kind or a bow and arrow for the
23 purpose of hunting any game or wildlife or attempting to take
24 or kill any game or wildlife by hunting or trapping if under
25 12 years of age or when hunting or trapping any game or
26 wildlife or attempting to hunt or trap any game or wildlife
27 if between 12 and 14 years of age, unless accompanied by a
28 parent or a person 18 years of age or older serving in loco
29 parentis or as guardian or some other family member 18 years
30 of age or older or when hunting if between 14 and 16 years of

1 age, unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.
2 For the purpose of this paragraph "accompany" means close
3 enough that verbal instructions and guidance can be easily
4 understood. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply
5 to section 2363 (relating to trapping exception for certain
6 persons).]

7 (8.1) Hunt or trap game or wildlife while in possession
8 of a firearm, bow and arrow, raptor, trap or any other device
9 of any description usable for the purpose of hunting or
10 taking game or wildlife while unaccompanied, subject to the
11 following requirements regarding hunting and furtaking and
12 subsection (d):

13 (i) A person who is 12 years of age or older but
14 under 16 years of age and who possesses a valid junior
15 hunting or furtaking license or meets a valid license
16 exemption under section 2706(a) (relating to resident
17 license and fee exemptions) shall be accompanied by a
18 person who is 18 years of age or older, with or without a
19 hunting or furtaking license.

20 (ii) A person who is 16 years of age or older and
21 who possesses a valid junior hunting or furtaking license
22 or meets a valid license exemption under section 2706(a)
23 is not required to be accompanied.

24 (iii) A person who is 18 years of age or older and
25 who possesses a valid adult hunting or furtaking license
26 or meets a valid license exemption under section 2706(a)
27 is not required to be accompanied.

28 (iv) A person who is 16 years of age or younger and
29 who possesses a valid apprentice junior hunting or
30 furtaking license or meets a valid license exemption

1 under section 2706(a) shall be accompanied by a person
2 who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses a valid
3 hunting or furtaking license.

4 (v) A person who is 18 years of age or older and who
5 possesses a valid apprentice adult hunting or furtaking
6 license or meets a valid license exemption under section
7 2706(a) shall be accompanied by a person who is 21 years
8 of age or older and who possesses a valid hunting or
9 furtaking license.

10 (vi) A person who is not described in subparagraph
11 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) shall be accompanied by a
12 person who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses
13 an adult hunting or furtaking license.

14 (10) Hunt or take, or aid, assist or attempt to hunt or
15 take, furbearers or take any game or wildlife anywhere in
16 this Commonwealth, either with or without a license, or make
17 application, receive or attempt or conspire to receive any
18 license required by this chapter, during any period that
19 these privileges have been denied or withdrawn by this title,
20 by the director or by a magisterial district judge or court
21 of competent jurisdiction.

22 (11) Conspire to or duplicate, reproduce, alter, forge
23 or counterfeit any permit, license, tag or stamp required by
24 this title.

25 (12) While exercising any of the privileges granted by
26 any license provided for in this title, refuse or fail to
27 satisfactorily provide positive identification or proof of
28 license to any landowner upon whose land that person may be
29 occupying or to any officer whose duty it is to enforce this
30 title.

1 (13) Violate any regulations promulgated under the
2 authority of this subchapter.

3 [(a.1) Exemption.--For the sole purpose of implementing and
4 enhancing a mentored hunting program within this Commonwealth,
5 the commission may establish regulations exempting certain
6 limited hunting activities from the prohibitions specified in
7 subsection (a) (1), (3), (5) and (8). Such exemption shall
8 include a provision limiting a mentored person participating in
9 a mentored hunting program to the receipt of no more than one
10 antlerless deer license in each license year. A person 17 years
11 of age or older may participate in a mentored hunting program as
12 a mentored hunter in no more than three licensing years.]

13 (b) Penalties.--A violation of this subchapter relating to:

14 (1) Subsection (a) (1) insofar as it relates to hunting
15 or furtaking without a valid license or licenses required is
16 a summary offense of the third degree.

17 [(2) Subsection (a) (1) insofar as it relates to signing
18 a license is a summary offense of the eighth degree.]

19 (3) Subsection (a) (1) insofar as it relates to signing a
20 license, (a) (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8.1) or (12) is a
21 summary offense of the fifth degree.

22 [(4) Subsection (a) (6), (7) or (8) is a summary offense
23 of the seventh degree.]

24 (5) Subsection (a) (10) or (11) is a summary offense of
25 the first degree and [may] shall result in forfeiture of the
26 privilege to hunt or take game or wildlife anywhere within
27 this Commonwealth for a period of five years.

28 (6) Any of the other provisions of this subchapter or
29 the regulations promulgated thereunder is a summary offense
30 of the fifth degree.

1 (c) Separate offenses.--Each day of violation or each
2 illegal act constitutes a separate offense.

3 (d) Accompaniment.--

4 (1) For the purposes of subsection (a) (8.1) (i), (v) and
5 (vi), to accompany means that the accompanied person is
6 within close proximity to another person so that verbal
7 instructions and guidance can be easily understood without
8 the aid or use of an electronic or sound amplification
9 device.

10 (2) For the purposes of subsection (a) (8.1) (iv), to
11 accompany means that the accompanied person is, at all times,
12 within arm's reach and subject to the immediate control of
13 the person providing accompaniment while the accompanied
14 person is in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, raptor,
15 trap or any other device of any description usable for the
16 purpose of hunting or taking game or wildlife.

17 § 2904. PERMIT FEES. <--

18 (A) ANNUAL FEES.--THE ANNUAL FEE FOR PERMITS PROVIDED FOR IN
19 THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

20 * * *

21 (9) FUR DEALERS:

22 (I) RESIDENT - ~~[\$100]~~ \$50.

23 (II) NONRESIDENT - ~~[\$300]~~ \$50.

24 * * *

25 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.