

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 Section  
5 2.25 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 deer  
8 except (i) with a shotgun, handgun, or muzzleloading rifle or  
9 (ii) as provided by administrative rule, with a bow and arrow,  
10 or crossbow device for handicapped persons, as defined in  
11 Section 2.33, and persons age 62 or older during the open  
12 season of not more than 14 days which will be set annually by  
13 the Director between the dates of November 1st and December  
14 31st, both inclusive, or a special 2-day, youth-only season  
15 between the dates of September 1 and October 31. For the  
16 purposes of this Section, legal handguns include any centerfire  
17 handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length  
18 of 4 inches. The only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun  
19 is a cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a capability of at  
20 least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. Full metal  
21 jacket bullets may not be used to harvest deer.

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

1 arrow season.

2 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
3 with a bow and arrow, or crossbow device for handicapped  
4 persons, as defined in Section 2.33, and persons age 62 or  
5 older during the open season for bow and arrow set annually by  
6 the Director between the dates of September 1st and January  
7 31st, both inclusive.

8 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
9 with (i) a muzzleloading rifle, or (ii) bow and arrow, or  
10 crossbow device for handicapped persons, as defined in Section  
11 2.33, and persons age 62 or older during the open season for  
12 muzzleloading rifles set annually by the Director. A person may  
13 use black powder cartridges during the open season for  
14 muzzleloading rifles.

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

20 The Department may establish separate harvest periods for  
21 the purpose of managing or eradicating disease that has been  
22 found in the deer herd. This season shall be restricted to gun  
23 or bow and arrow hunting only. The Department shall publicly  
24 announce, via statewide news release, the season dates and  
25 shooting hours, the counties and sites open to hunting, permit  
26 requirements, application dates, hunting rules, legal weapons,

1 and reporting requirements.

2 The Department is authorized to establish a separate  
3 harvest period at specific sites within the State for the  
4 purpose of harvesting surplus deer that cannot be taken during  
5 the regular season provided for the taking of deer. This season  
6 shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting only and  
7 shall be established during the period of September 1st to  
8 February 15th, both inclusive. The Department shall publish  
9 suitable prescribed rules and regulations established by  
10 administrative rule pertaining to management restrictions  
11 applicable to this special harvest program. The Department  
12 shall allow unused gun deer permits that are left over from a  
13 regular season for the taking of deer to be rolled over and  
14 used during any separate harvest period held within 6 months of  
15 the season for which those tags were issued at no additional  
16 cost to the permit holder subject to the management  
17 restrictions applicable to the special harvest program.

18 (Source: P.A. 94-919, eff. 6-26-06; 95-13, eff. 1-1-08; 95-329,  
19 eff. 8-21-07; 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

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