

AN ACT concerning wildlife.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing  
Section 2.25 as follows:

(520 ILCS 5/2.25) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.25)

Sec. 2.25. It shall be unlawful for any person to take  
deer except (i) with a shotgun or muzzleloading rifle or (ii)  
as provided by administrative rule, with a bow and arrow, or  
crossbow device for handicapped persons as defined in Section  
2.33, during the open season of not more than 14 days which  
will be set annually by the Director between the dates of  
November 1st and December 31st, both inclusive.

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

It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
with (i) a muzzleloading rifle, or (ii) bow and arrow, or  
crossbow device for handicapped persons as defined in Section  
2.33, during the open season for muzzleloading rifles set  
annually by the Director.

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

The Department may establish separate harvest periods for  
the purpose of managing or eradicating disease that has been  
found in the deer herd. This season shall be restricted to

gun or bow and arrow hunting only. The Department shall publicly announce, via statewide news release, the season dates and shooting hours, the counties and sites open to hunting, permit requirements, application dates, hunting rules, legal weapons, and reporting requirements.

The Department is authorized to establish a separate harvest period at specific sites within the State for the purpose of harvesting surplus deer that cannot be taken during the regular season provided for the taking of deer. This season shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting only and shall be established during the period of September 1st to February 15th, both inclusive. The Department shall publish suitable prescribed rules and regulations established by administrative rule pertaining to management restrictions applicable to this special harvest program.

(Source: P.A. 86-1188; 87-126; 87-234; 87-895; 87-1015; 87-1243; 87-1268.)

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