

# HB2339



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2339

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/2.25

from Ch. 61, par. 2.25

Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that, if the Department of Natural Resources is using its sharpshooting program to manage chronic wasting disease in a deer herd that is found in a specified area or county in the State and if no cases of that disease have been identified in that herd in the preceding 3 calendar years, then the Department shall end the use of that program to manage that disease in that area or county. Provides, however, that the program may be reinstated within the area or county if chronic wasting disease is again identified in that herd.

LRB104 09675 BDA 19741 b

A BILL FOR

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  
5 Section 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, single shot centerfire  
9 rifle, or muzzleloading rifle or (ii) as provided by  
10 administrative rule, with a bow and arrow, during the open  
11 season of not more than 14 days which will be set annually by  
12 the Director between the dates of November 1st and December  
13 31st, both inclusive, or a special 3-day, youth-only season  
14 between the dates of September 1 and October 31. For the  
15 purposes of this Section, legal handguns and rifles are  
16 limited to centerfire handguns that are either a single shot  
17 or revolver and centerfire rifles that are single shot. The  
18 only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun or rifle is a  
19 bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with  
20 a case length not exceeding one and two-fifths inches, or a  
21 straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger,  
22 both of which must be available as a factory load with the  
23 published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a

1 capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.  
2 The barrel of a handgun shall be at least 4 inches. Full metal  
3 jacket bullets may not be used to harvest deer.

4 The Department shall make administrative rules concerning  
5 management restrictions applicable to the firearm and bow and  
6 arrow season.

7 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
8 with a bow and arrow during the open season for bow and arrow  
9 set annually by the Director between the dates of September  
10 1st and January 31st, both inclusive.

11 It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
12 with (i) a muzzleloading rifle or (ii) bow and arrow during the  
13 open season for muzzleloading rifles set annually by the  
14 Director.

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.

26 The Department is authorized to establish a separate

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

19 If the Department is using its sharpshooting program to  
20 manage chronic wasting disease in a deer herd that is found in  
21 an area or county in the State and if no cases of that disease  
22 have been identified in that herd in the preceding 3 calendar  
23 years, then the Department shall end the use of that program to  
24 manage chronic wasting disease in that area or county.  
25 However, the program may be reinstated within the area or  
26 county if chronic wasting disease is again identified in that

1 herd.

2       Beginning July 1, 2019, and on an annual basis thereafter,  
3 the Department shall provide a report to the General Assembly  
4 providing information regarding deer management programs  
5 established by the Code or by administrative rule that  
6 includes: (1) the number of surplus deer taken during each  
7 separate harvest season; (2) the number of deer found to have a  
8 communicable disease or other abnormality; and (3) what  
9 happens to the deer taken during each separate harvest season.  
10 (Source: P.A. 101-66, eff. 7-12-19; 102-314, eff. 1-1-22;  
11 102-932, eff. 1-1-23.)