

# SB2924



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2924

Introduced 1/27/2026, by Sen. Neil Anderson

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/3.1-6

Amends the Wildlife Code. In provisions regarding special deer, turkey, and combination hunting licenses, provides that the deer, turkey, or combination hunting permit issued without fee shall be valid on all farm lands year-round which the person to whom it is issued owns, leases, or rents, with other requirements. Provides that resident landowners shall be entitled to up to 5 resident deer archery either-sex permits and up to 5 resident deer either-sex firearm permits without charge.

LRB104 19146 WRO 32591 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 3.1-6 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/3.1-6)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-361)

8 Sec. 3.1-6. Special deer, turkey, and combination hunting  
9 licenses.

10 (a) For the purpose of this Section:

11 "Bona fide equity member" means an individual who:

12 (1) (i) became a member upon the formation of the  
13 limited liability company or (ii) has purchased a  
14 distributional interest in a limited liability company for  
15 a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of  
16 the limited liability company's ~~LLC~~ assets represented by  
17 the distributional interest in the limited liability  
18 company ~~LLC~~ and subsequently becomes a member of the  
19 company under Article 30 of the Limited Liability Company  
20 Act; and

21 (2) intends to retain the membership for at least 5  
22 years.

23 "Bona fide equity partner" means an individual who:

1 (1) (i) became a partner, either general or limited,  
2 upon the formation of a partnership or limited  
3 partnership, or (ii) has purchased, acquired, or been  
4 gifted a partnership interest accurately representing his  
5 or her percentage distributional interest in the profits,  
6 losses, and assets of a partnership or limited  
7 partnership;

8 (2) intends to retain ownership of the partnership  
9 interest for at least 5 years; and

10 (3) is a resident of this State.

11 "Bona fide equity shareholder" means an individual who:

12 (1) purchased, for market price, publicly sold stock  
13 shares in a corporation, purchased shares of a  
14 privately-held corporation for a value equal to the  
15 percentage of the appraised value of the corporate assets  
16 represented by the ownership in the corporation, or is a  
17 member of a closely-held family-owned corporation and has  
18 purchased or been gifted with shares of stock in the  
19 corporation accurately reflecting his or her percentage of  
20 ownership; and

21 (2) intends to retain the ownership of the shares of  
22 stock for at least 5 years.

23 (b) Landowner deer, turkey, and combination permits shall  
24 be issued without charge to:

25 (1) Illinois landowners residing in this State who own  
26 at least 40 acres of Illinois land and wish to hunt upon

1 their land only;

2 (2) resident tenants of at least 40 acres of  
3 commercial agricultural land where they will hunt; and

4 (3) bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation,  
5 bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
6 or bona fide equity partners of a general or limited  
7 partnership which owns at least 40 acres of land in a  
8 county in this State who wish to hunt on the  
9 corporation's, company's, or partnership's land only. One  
10 permit shall be issued without charge to one bona fide  
11 equity shareholder, one bona fide equity member, or one  
12 bona fide equity partner for each 40 acres of land owned by  
13 the corporation, company, or partnership in a county;  
14 however, the number of permits issued without charge to  
15 bona fide equity shareholders of any corporation or bona  
16 fide equity members of a limited liability company in any  
17 county shall not exceed 15, and shall not exceed 3 in the  
18 case of bona fide equity partners of a partnership.

19 Bona fide landowners or tenants who do not wish to hunt  
20 only on the land they own, rent, or lease or bona fide equity  
21 shareholders, bona fide equity members, or bona fide equity  
22 partners who do not wish to hunt only on the land owned by the  
23 corporation, limited liability company, or partnership shall  
24 be charged the same fee as the applicant who is not a  
25 landowner, tenant, bona fide equity shareholder, bona fide  
26 equity member, or bona fide equity partner. Nonresidents of

1 this State who own at least 40 acres of land and wish to hunt  
2 on their land only shall be charged a fee set by administrative  
3 rule. The method for obtaining these permits shall be  
4 prescribed by administrative rule.

5 (b-5) Landowner deer permits shall be issued without  
6 charge to:

7 (1) Illinois landowners residing in this State who own  
8 at least 20 acres of Illinois land that is located in a  
9 county where the Department has positively identified  
10 chronic wasting disease cases in the deer herd<sup>7</sup> and who  
11 wish to hunt upon their land only;

12 (2) resident tenants of at least 20 acres of  
13 commercial agricultural land that is located in a county  
14 where the Department has positively identified chronic  
15 wasting disease cases in the deer herd where they will  
16 hunt ~~and~~ who wish to hunt upon the land they are tenants of  
17 only; and

18 (3) bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation,  
19 bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
20 or bona fide equity partners of a general or limited  
21 partnership who own ~~which owns~~ at least 20 acres of land in  
22 a county in this State where the Department has positively  
23 identified chronic wasting disease cases in the deer herd  
24 and who wish to hunt on the corporation's, company's, or  
25 partnership's land only. One permit shall be issued  
26 without charge to one bona fide equity shareholder, one

1        bona fide equity member, or one bona fide equity partner  
2        for each 20 acres of land owned by the corporation,  
3        company, or partnership in a county; however, the number  
4        of permits issued without charge to bona fide equity  
5        shareholders of any corporation or bona fide equity  
6        members of a limited liability company in any county shall  
7        not exceed 15, and shall not exceed 3 in the case of bona  
8        fide equity partners of a partnership.

9        Bona fide landowners or tenants who do not wish to  
10       hunt only on the land they own, rent, or lease or bona fide  
11       equity shareholders, bona fide equity members, or bona  
12       fide equity partners who do not wish to hunt only on the  
13       land owned by the corporation, limited liability company,  
14       or partnership shall be charged the same fee as an ~~the~~  
15       applicant who is not a landowner, tenant, bona fide equity  
16       shareholder, bona fide equity member, or bona fide equity  
17       partner.

18       Nonresidents of this State who own at least 20 acres of  
19       land where the Department has positively identified chronic  
20       wasting disease cases in the deer herd and who wish to hunt on  
21       their land only shall be charged a fee set by administrative  
22       rule. The method for obtaining these permits shall be  
23       prescribed by administrative rule.

24       (c) The deer, turkey, or combination hunting permit issued  
25       without fee shall be valid on all farm lands which the person  
26       to whom it is issued owns, leases, or rents, except that in the

1 case of a permit issued to a bona fide equity shareholder, bona  
2 fide equity member, or bona fide equity partner, the permit  
3 shall be valid on all lands owned by the corporation, limited  
4 liability company, or partnership in the county.

5 Resident landowners shall be entitled to up to 5 Resident  
6 Deer Archery Either-Sex Permits and up to 5 Resident Deer  
7 Either-Sex Firearm Permits without charge.

8 (Source: P.A. 104-59, eff. 1-1-26; revised 9-15-25.)

9 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 104-361)

10 Sec. 3.1-6. Landowner or tenant deer and turkey hunting  
11 permits.

12 (a) For the purpose of this Section:

13 "Bona fide current income beneficiary" means an individual  
14 who, at the time of application for a permit, is:

15 (1) entitled to income, whether income exists or not,  
16 from the trust that owns Illinois land on which the  
17 applicant wishes to hunt with no condition precedent, such  
18 as surviving another person or reaching a certain age,  
19 other than the trustee distributing the income; and

20 (2) listed by name in the trust documents as an income  
21 beneficiary.

22 "Bona fide equity member" means an individual who:

23 (1)(i) became a member upon the formation of the  
24 limited liability company or (ii) has purchased a  
25 distributional interest in a limited liability company for

1 a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of  
2 the limited liability company's ~~LIC~~ assets represented by  
3 the distributional interest in the limited liability  
4 company ~~LIC~~ and subsequently becomes a member of the  
5 company under Article 30 of the Limited Liability Company  
6 Act; and

7 (2) intends to retain the membership for at least 5  
8 years.

9 "Bona fide equity partner" means an individual who:

10 (1) (i) became a partner, either general or limited,  
11 upon the formation of a partnership or limited  
12 partnership, or (ii) has purchased, acquired, or been  
13 gifted a partnership interest accurately representing his  
14 or her percentage distributional interest in the profits,  
15 losses, and assets of a partnership or limited  
16 partnership;

17 (2) intends to retain ownership of the partnership  
18 interest for at least 5 years; and

19 (3) is a resident of this State.

20 "Bona fide equity shareholder" means an individual who:

21 (1) purchased, for market price, publicly sold stock  
22 shares in a corporation, purchased shares of a  
23 privately-held corporation for a value equal to the  
24 percentage of the appraised value of the corporate assets  
25 represented by the ownership in the corporation, or is a  
26 member of a closely-held family-owned corporation and has

1 purchased or been gifted with shares of stock in the  
2 corporation accurately reflecting his or her percentage of  
3 ownership; and

4 (2) intends to retain the ownership of the shares of  
5 stock for at least 5 years.

6 "Current owners" means one or more bona fide landowners,  
7 one or more bona fide current income beneficiaries, one or  
8 more bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation, one or  
9 more bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
10 or one or more bona fide equity partners of a partnership that  
11 all own the same 240 acres of Illinois land.

12 "Immediate family of a bona fide landowner, a tenant, or a  
13 bona fide current income beneficiary" means the spouse,  
14 children, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, grandparents, and  
15 parents permanently residing on the same property as the bona  
16 fide landowner, tenant, or bona fide current income  
17 beneficiary.

18 "Tenant" means a person who rents 40 acres or more of  
19 Illinois land for commercial agricultural purposes under a  
20 written notarized agreement with the landowner.

21 (b) Landowner deer and turkey permits shall be issued  
22 without charge to an Illinois resident who ~~that~~ owns at least  
23 40 acres of Illinois land and who ~~that~~ wishes to hunt only on  
24 the land that Illinois resident owns. Deer permits issued  
25 under this Section shall consist of one either-sex permit and  
26 one antlerless-only permit for the deer firearm season and one

1 either-sex permit and one antlerless-only permit for the  
2 archery deer season. Land ownership shall only be accepted by  
3 the Department for:

4 (1) bona fide landowners;

5 (2) bona fide current income beneficiaries of a trust  
6 in which the trust owns Illinois land; and

7 (3) bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation,  
8 bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
9 or bona fide equity partners of a general or limited  
10 partnership which owns land in this State.

11 (b-5) Landowner deer permits shall be issued without  
12 charge to:

13 (1) Illinois landowners residing in this State who own  
14 at least 20 acres of Illinois land that is located in a  
15 county where the Department has positively identified  
16 chronic wasting disease cases in the deer herd, and who  
17 wish to hunt upon their land only;

18 (2) resident tenants of at least 20 acres of  
19 commercial agricultural land that is located in a county  
20 where the Department has positively identified chronic  
21 wasting disease cases in the deer herd where they will  
22 hunt ~~and~~ who wish to hunt upon the land they are tenants of  
23 only; and

24 (3) bona fide equity shareholders of a corporation,  
25 bona fide equity members of a limited liability company,  
26 or bona fide equity partners of a general or limited

1 partnership who own ~~which owns~~ at least 20 acres of land in  
2 a county in this State where the Department has positively  
3 identified chronic wasting disease cases in the deer herd  
4 and who wish to hunt on the corporation's, company's, or  
5 partnership's land only. One permit shall be issued  
6 without charge to one bona fide equity shareholder, one  
7 bona fide equity member, or one bona fide equity partner  
8 for each 20 acres of land owned by the corporation,  
9 company, or partnership in a county; however, the number  
10 of permits issued without charge to bona fide equity  
11 shareholders of any corporation or bona fide equity  
12 members of a limited liability company in any county shall  
13 not exceed 15, and shall not exceed 3 in the case of bona  
14 fide equity partners of a partnership.

15 Bona fide landowners or tenants who do not wish to  
16 hunt only on the land they own, rent, or lease or bona fide  
17 equity shareholders, bona fide equity members, or bona  
18 fide equity partners who do not wish to hunt only on the  
19 land owned by the corporation, limited liability company,  
20 or partnership shall be charged the same fee as an ~~the~~  
21 applicant who is not a landowner, tenant, bona fide equity  
22 shareholder, bona fide equity member, or bona fide equity  
23 partner.

24 Nonresidents of this State who own at least 20 acres of  
25 land where the Department has positively identified chronic  
26 wasting disease cases in the deer herd and who wish to hunt on

1 their land only shall be charged a fee set by administrative  
2 rule. The method for obtaining these permits shall be  
3 prescribed by administrative rule.

4 (b-10) ~~(b-5)~~ Tenant deer and turkey permits shall be  
5 issued without charge to Illinois resident tenants of at least  
6 40 acres of commercial agricultural land who ~~that~~ wish to hunt  
7 only on the land of which they are resident tenants. Deer  
8 permits issued under this Section shall consist of (i) one  
9 either-sex permit and one antlerless-only permit for the deer  
10 firearm season and (ii) one either-sex permit and one  
11 antlerless-only permit for the archery deer season.

12 (b-15) ~~(b-10)~~ The total number of deer or turkey permits  
13 that may be issued to a person under this Section shall be  
14 established by administrative rule.

15 (b-20) ~~(b-15)~~ Bona fide landowners who do not wish to hunt  
16 only on the land they own, tenants who do not wish to hunt only  
17 on the land they rent or lease, or bona fide equity  
18 shareholders, bona fide equity members, bona fide current  
19 income beneficiaries of a trust, or bona fide equity partners  
20 who do not wish to hunt only on the land owned by the  
21 corporation, limited liability company, trust, or partnership  
22 shall be charged the same fee as the applicant who is not a  
23 bona fide landowner, Illinois resident tenant, bona fide  
24 equity shareholder, bona fide equity member, bona fide current  
25 income beneficiary of a trust, or bona fide equity partner.  
26 Nonresidents of this State who own at least 40 acres of land as

1 a bona fide landowner, a bona fide current income beneficiary  
2 of a trust, a bona fide equity shareholder, or a bona fide  
3 equity member and wish to hunt on their land only shall be  
4 charged a fee set by administrative rule. The method for  
5 obtaining these permits shall be prescribed by administrative  
6 rule.

7 (c) A deer or turkey hunting permit issued without fee  
8 shall be valid on all Illinois lands year-round which the  
9 person to whom it is issued owns, including land owned by the  
10 individual as a bona fide landowner, land owned as a bona fide  
11 equity shareholder of a corporation, land owned by the  
12 individual as a bona fide equity member of a limited liability  
13 company, and land owned by the individual as a bona fide equity  
14 partner of a partnership.

15 (d) Except for a person hunting under a permit issued  
16 under subsection (e) or (f), while hunting under a permit  
17 issued under this Section, a person must carry the permit and  
18 documentation showing proof ~~of~~ that the person is a bona fide  
19 landowner, a bona fide equity shareholder of a corporation, a  
20 bona fide equity member of a limited liability company, a bona  
21 fide current income beneficiary, a bona fide equity partner  
22 ~~partners~~ of a general or limited partnership, or a tenant.  
23 While hunting under a permit issued under subsection (e) or  
24 (f), a person must carry the permit and documentation showing  
25 that the person is actively hunting on land covered by the  
26 permit.

1 (e) The Department may, by administrative rule, issue  
2 permits under this Section to the immediate family of a bona  
3 fide landowner, a tenant, or a bona fide current income  
4 beneficiary, ~~or tenant~~.

5 (f) For every 240 acres of Illinois land owned by the  
6 current owners, the Department may issue one guest either-sex  
7 deer permit and one guest antlerless-only deer permit. The  
8 guest permits shall be for the same deer hunting season and for  
9 the same method of take as issued to the current owner. A guest  
10 permit shall be issued to an individual who is not a current  
11 owner and is listed on the application for the issuance of  
12 guest deer hunting permits by a current owner. An individual  
13 designated by a current owner must meet all the eligibility  
14 requirements to hunt under this Code and shall pay all fees  
15 required under Section 2.26 for the permits issued, including  
16 non-resident fees if that individual is a non-resident.  
17 Permits issued under this subsection may not be offered for  
18 resale by the landowner receiving the permit and are  
19 nontransferable. No more than 5 individuals, regardless of the  
20 total number of 240 acres of Illinois land owned by the current  
21 owners, may be issued guest permits under this subsection.

22 (g) The Department may adopt rules to administer and  
23 enforce this Section, including, but not limited to,  
24 application requirements, proof of ownership requirements,  
25 proof of residency requirements, eligibility requirements,  
26 restrictions, and suspension and revocation of permits.

1 (h) No person shall be issued more than (i) one either-sex  
2 permit and one antlerless-only permit for the deer firearm  
3 season and (ii) one either-sex permit and one antlerless-only  
4 permit for the deer archery season under this Section.

5 Resident landowners shall be entitled to up to 5 Resident  
6 Deer Archery Either-Sex Permits and up to 5 Resident Deer  
7 Either-Sex Firearm Permits without charge.

8 (Source: P.A. 104-59, eff. 1-1-26; 104-361, eff. 1-1-27;  
9 revised 9-15-25.)

10 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes  
11 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text  
12 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section  
13 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does  
14 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes  
15 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other  
16 Public Act.