

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, or muzzleloading rifle or  
9 (ii) as provided by administrative rule, with a bow and arrow,  
10 during the open season of not more than 14 days which will be  
11 set annually by the Director between the dates of November 1st  
12 and December 31st, both inclusive, or a special 3-day,  
13 youth-only season between the dates of September 1 and October  
14 31. For the purposes of this Section, legal handguns include  
15 any centerfire handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a  
16 minimum barrel length of 4 inches. The only legal ammunition  
17 for a centerfire handgun is a cartridge of .30 caliber or  
18 larger with a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy  
19 at the muzzle. Full metal jacket bullets may not be used to  
20 harvest deer.

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

1           It shall be unlawful for any person to take deer except  
2 with a bow and arrow during the open season for bow and arrow  
3 set annually by the Director between the dates of September  
4 1st and January 31st, both inclusive.

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

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

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

22           The Department is authorized to establish a separate  
23 harvest period at specific sites within the State for the  
24 purpose of harvesting surplus deer that cannot be taken during  
25 the regular season provided for the taking of deer. This  
26 season shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting only

1 and shall be established during the period of September 1st to  
2 February 15th, both inclusive. The Department shall publicly  
3 announce, via statewide news release, the season dates and  
4 shooting hours, and the counties and sites open to hunting.

5 The Department shall publish suitable prescribed rules and  
6 regulations established by administrative rule pertaining to  
7 management restrictions applicable to this special harvest  
8 program. The Department shall allow unused gun deer permits  
9 that are left over from a regular season for the taking of deer  
10 to be rolled over and used during any separate harvest period  
11 held within 6 months of the season for which those tags were  
12 issued at no additional cost to the permit holder subject to  
13 the management restrictions applicable to the special harvest  
14 program.

15 Beginning July 1, 2019, and on an annual basis thereafter,  
16 the Department shall provide a report to the General Assembly  
17 providing information regarding deer management programs  
18 established by the Code or by administrative rule that  
19 includes: (1) the number of surplus deer taken during each  
20 separate harvest season; (2) the number of deer found to have a  
21 communicable disease or other abnormality; and (3) what  
22 happens to the deer taken during each separate harvest season.

23 (Source: P.A. 101-66, eff. 7-12-19.)