



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4563

Introduced 1/31/2024, by Rep. Dave Severin

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/2.26-1 new

Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, the Department of Natural Resources shall issue nuisance deer removal permits to: (1) a person who owns or leases 1,000 or more acres of land in an unincorporated area of the State, produces agricultural products on that land, and is experiencing demonstrable damage to land or agricultural products due to nuisance deer that reside on the land; or (2) a tenant of the landowner who has been granted permission by that person to apply for a nuisance deer removal permit on that person's behalf. Provides that the number of deer permitted to be taken, the number of days for which the deer may be taken, and the total number of persons who may take deer under the permit shall be based on the number of acres of land owned. Provides that a nuisance deer removal permit shall not allow the taking of deer during any archery, firearm, muzzleloader only, special Chronic Wasting Disease, late winter, or youth firearm season. Provides that the Department shall encourage persons issued a nuisance deer removal permit to use the deer taken under the deer removal program for human consumption or for donations to zoos or other facilities where the deer can be used to feed animals. Makes other changes.

LRB103 36764 JAG 66874 b

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 adding Section  
5 2.26-1 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.26-1 new)

7 Sec. 2.26-1. Nuisance deer removal permits.

8 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the  
9 Department shall issue nuisance deer removal permits in  
10 accordance with this Section to:

11 (1) a person who owns or leases 1,000 or more acres of  
12 land in an unincorporated area of the State, produces  
13 agricultural products on that land, and is experiencing  
14 demonstrable damage to land or agricultural products due  
15 to nuisance deer that reside on the land; or

16 (2) a tenant of a person described in paragraph (1)  
17 who has been granted permission by that person to apply  
18 for a nuisance deer removal permit on that person's  
19 behalf.

20 (b) The Department shall issue nuisance deer removal  
21 permits to eligible persons as follows:

22 (1) if the person described in paragraph (1) of  
23 subsection (a) owns or leases at least 1,000 but less than

1       5,000 acres of land in an unincorporated area of the  
2       State, then the Department shall, upon application, issue  
3       to that person or that person's tenant a nuisance deer  
4       removal permit that authorizes up to 2 individuals to  
5       collectively take up to 20 deer from that land during the  
6       35 days following the date of the permit's issuance;

7       (2) if the person described in paragraph (1) of  
8       subsection (a) owns or leases at least 5,000 but less than  
9       10,000 acres of land in an unincorporated area of the  
10       State, then the Department shall, upon application, issue  
11       to that person or that person's tenant a nuisance deer  
12       removal permit that authorizes up to 4 individuals to  
13       collectively take up to 30 deer from that land during the  
14       45 days following the date of the permit's issuance; and

15       (3) if the person described in paragraph (1) of  
16       subsection (a) owns or leases 10,000 or more acres of land  
17       in an unincorporated area of the State, then the  
18       Department shall, upon application, issue to that person  
19       or that person's tenant a nuisance deer removal permit  
20       that authorizes up to 6 individuals to collectively take  
21       up to 50 deer from that land during the 50 days following  
22       the date of the permit's issuance.

23       (d) A nuisance deer removal permit issued under this  
24       Section shall not allow the taking of deer during any archery,  
25       firearm, muzzleloader only, special Chronic Wasting Disease,  
26       late winter, or youth firearm season.

1       (e) The Department shall encourage persons issued a  
2 nuisance deer removal permit under this Section to use the  
3 deer taken under the nuisance deer removal program for human  
4 consumption or for donations to zoos or other facilities where  
5 the deer can be used to feed animals.

6       (f) The disposition of carcasses of deer taken under this  
7 Section shall be at the discretion of the permit holder.  
8 Inedible deer parts, such as the hides and antlers, must not be  
9 retained and must be disposed of in accordance with the  
10 provisions of the Animal Mortality Act and the rules adopted  
11 under that Act. Permits authorizing the lethal removal of deer  
12 shall allow the use of shotguns with deer slugs or, if deemed  
13 safe by the Department, centerfire rifles (.243 caliber or  
14 larger). A permit holder who has huntable properties may be  
15 denied future nuisance deer removal permits under this Section  
16 if the permit holder does not manage deer population problems  
17 through hunting. The Department shall encourage the holder of  
18 a permit issued under this Section to allow hunting on the  
19 permit holder's property and to encourage the taking of female  
20 deer.

21       (g) An agricultural producer who has been issued a  
22 nuisance deer removal permit must report annually to the  
23 Department the number, age, and sex of the taken deer, as well  
24 as the manner in which the permittee disposed of the deer  
25 carcasses.