

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 Section  
5 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 ~~2-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 minimum  
16 barrel length of 4 inches. The only legal ammunition for a  
17 centerfire handgun is a cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with  
18 a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the  
19 muzzle. Full metal jacket bullets may not be used to harvest  
20 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 1st  
4 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 season  
26 shall be restricted to gun or bow and arrow hunting only and

1 shall be established during the period of September 1st to  
2 February 15th, both inclusive. The Department shall publish  
3 suitable prescribed rules and regulations established by  
4 administrative rule pertaining to management restrictions  
5 applicable to this special harvest program. The Department  
6 shall allow unused gun deer permits that are left over from a  
7 regular season for the taking of deer to be rolled over and  
8 used during any separate harvest period held within 6 months of  
9 the season for which those tags were issued at no additional  
10 cost to the permit holder subject to the management  
11 restrictions applicable to the special harvest program.

12 (Source: P.A. 97-907, eff. 8-7-12.)

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