



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 6034***

LCO No. 2912



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 Sunday shall be a closed season except for hunting deer with bow  
4 and arrow on private property and for the purpose of trapping under  
5 the provisions of this chapter. The possession in the open air on  
6 Sunday of any implement for hunting, except for bow and arrow, shall  
7 be prima facie evidence of hunting in violation of the provisions of this  
8 section. No provision of this section shall be construed so as to affect  
9 any provision of section 26-31, 26-48, 26-52 or 27-35. [or apply to the  
10 use of bow and arrow for purposes other than hunting.] Artificially  
11 propagated birds designated by the commissioner may be shot on  
12 Sundays on licensed private shooting preserves subject to such  
13 regulations of the commissioner as may apply to such private shooting  
14 preserves, provided permission so to shoot has been obtained from the  
15 town or towns within which such licensed private shooting preserves

16 are located. Any person who hunts deer on Sunday with bow and  
17 arrow on private property pursuant to this section shall: (1) Conduct  
18 such hunting only in deer management zones determined by the  
19 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be  
20 overpopulated and only in accordance with and pursuant to the  
21 wildlife management principles and practices established by the  
22 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, (2) have the  
23 written permission of the private property owner where such hunting  
24 is conducted, and (3) carry such written permission upon his or her  
25 person during the hunting. No person shall hunt with bow and arrow  
26 on Sunday on private property pursuant to this section within forty  
27 yards of a blazed hiking trail.

28 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 26-86a of the general statutes is  
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
30 *October 1, 2015*):

31 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in  
32 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer  
33 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and  
34 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader  
35 and shotgun, except that no such hunting shall be permitted on  
36 Sunday by any means other than with bow and arrow on private  
37 property pursuant to section 26-73, as amended by this act. No person  
38 shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a firearm without first  
39 obtaining a deer permit from the commissioner in addition to the  
40 license required by section 26-27. Application for such permit shall be  
41 made on forms furnished by the commissioner and containing such  
42 information as he may require. Such permit shall be of a design  
43 prescribed by the commissioner, shall contain such information and  
44 conditions as the commissioner may require, and may be revoked for  
45 violation of any provision of this chapter or regulations adopted  
46 pursuant thereto. As used in this section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle  
47 or shotgun of at least forty-five caliber, incapable of firing a self-  
48 contained cartridge, which uses powder, a projectile, including, but

49 not limited to, a standard round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot  
50 bullets, and wadding loaded separately at the muzzle end, and "rifle"  
51 means a long gun the projectile of which is six millimeters or larger in  
52 diameter. The fee for a firearms permit shall be nineteen dollars for  
53 residents of the state and sixty-eight dollars for nonresidents, except  
54 that any nonresident who is an active full-time member of the armed  
55 forces, as defined in section 27-103, may purchase a firearms permit for  
56 the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The commissioner  
57 shall issue, without fee, a private land deer permit to the owner of ten  
58 or more acres of private land and the husband or wife, parent,  
59 grandparent, sibling and any lineal descendant of such owner,  
60 provided no such owner, husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling  
61 or lineal descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per  
62 season. Such permit shall allow the use of a rifle, shotgun,  
63 muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from November first to  
64 December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so hunted at such times  
65 and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the  
66 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and on  
67 privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on  
68 forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be  
69 carried by any person when so hunting on private land. The owner of  
70 ten acres or more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt  
71 deer on such land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall  
72 determine, by regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any  
73 regulated area established by said commissioner. The commissioner  
74 shall provide for a fair and equitable random method for the selection  
75 of successful applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader  
76 permits for hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name  
77 appears on more than one application for a shotgun permit or more  
78 than one application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified  
79 from the selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt,  
80 pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first  
81 obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow  
82 and arrow", as used in this section and in section 26-86c, means a bow

83 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall  
84 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an  
85 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind  
86 while hunting with a bow and arrow under this section and section 26-  
87 86c.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	26-86a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To authorize Sunday hunting of deer with bow and arrow on private property provided such property is in a deer management zone and such hunting is done in accordance with certain wildlife management principles.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*