

2014 -- H 7344 SUBSTITUTE A

=====
LC003932/SUB A
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - DEER HUNTING

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Costantino, Chippendale, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 06, 2014

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20-15-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-15 entitled "Deer
2 Hunting" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-15-3. Permit to landowner to protect property.** -- (a) Any person owning or
4 occupying any property and any employee of that person, while on that person's premises, may
5 kill any deer found destroying any crops, vegetables, or fruit trees, or otherwise causing damage
6 to that property; provided, however, that this person shall not kill any deer unless he or she has
7 obtained a permit from the director to do so. The director, on application, may issue the permit to
8 any responsible owner or the owner's employee, provided that no such permit shall be issued until
9 the director has determined that actual damage has been done to crops, vegetables, fruit trees, or
10 other property by any deer, and that no practical alternative to the shooting of the deer is
11 available. This permit shall be issued ~~on an annual basis~~ [for a period of five \(5\) years](#) at a fee of
12 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Any person taking or wounding a deer under the permit shall report
13 the taking or wounding to a conservation officer or other designee of the director within twenty-
14 four (24) hours of the taking or wounding.

15 (b) Hunting shall only be permitted from one half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one half
16 (1/2) hour after sunset; provided that the director, subject to terms and conditions to be set forth
17 by regulation, may authorize hunting at other times on farmlands; and further provided, that these
18 farms have experienced severe deer damage to a cash crop or crops, and have attempted
19 unsuccessfully other reasonable means of controlling the damage, including daylight hunting; and

1 provided further, that the director determines whether these farmlands are of sufficient size to
2 support night hunting without endangering the public safety. A night hunting permit may be
3 issued by the director to any responsible owner or the owner's employee, provided that no such
4 permit shall be issued until the director has determined that actual damage has been done to
5 crops, vegetables, fruit trees, or other property by any deer, and that no practical alternative to the
6 shooting of the deer is available. This permit shall be issued ~~on an annual basis~~ for a period of
7 five (5) years at a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

8 (c) Under the authority of the director, the division of agriculture shall be responsible for
9 administering the provisions of this section as they relate to farmers, and may also be responsible
10 for administering this section as it relates to other landowners.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003932/SUB A
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - DEER HUNTING

1 This act would allow the director of the department of environmental management to
2 issue permits every five (5) years, instead of annually, to a landowner for the protection of
3 property and crop destruction caused by deer.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003932/SUB A
=====