

2014 -- H 7858

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LC005049  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - DEER HUNTING

Introduced By: Representative Scott J.Guthrie

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **20-15-1. Deer hunting prohibited except as provided.** -- No person shall hunt, pursue,  
4 or shoot, or attempt to hunt, pursue, or shoot, deer in this state except as provided in this chapter.  
5 Deer hunting shall be limited to seasons, times, manner of taking, and bag limits established in  
6 regulations adopted by the director pursuant to section 20-1-12. The regulations shall be  
7 formulated to include the best methods to provide for the safety both of hunters and residents. In  
8 any event, the following prohibitions and restrictions shall always apply to deer hunting:

9 (1) (i) No firearm deer hunting shall be done within five hundred feet (500') of any  
10 building or dwelling house in use, without the specific written permission of the owner or tenant  
11 of the dwelling.

12 (ii) No archery deer hunting shall be done within two hundred feet (200') of any building  
13 or dwelling house in use without the specific written permission of the owner or tenant of the  
14 dwelling unless otherwise established in regulations adopted by the director or his or her designee  
15 for the purpose of wildlife management;

16 (2) Hunting shall only be permitted from one half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one half  
17 (1/2) hour after sunset;

18 (3) No dog shall be employed in any deer hunting activities;

19 (4) No hunting shall be done on any privately owned land without the written permission

1 of the owner of the land; Any person who violates this provision shall be guilty of a felony and  
2 shall be imprisoned not exceeding two (2) years;

3 (5) Only a shotgun, muzzle loading rifle, or long bow (straight limb, reflex, recurve, and  
4 compound bow) or crossbow and arrow shall be utilized in deer hunting;

5 (6) No person shall make, set, or use any trap or snare, or salt lick or other device for the  
6 purpose of ensnaring, enticing, taking, injuring, or killing a deer; Any person who violates this  
7 provision shall be guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned not exceeding two (2) years;

8 (7) No person shall individually, or in conjunction with others, use an artificial light at  
9 any time to illuminate, jack light, locate, attempt to locate, or show up wild birds or mammals or  
10 any other vertebrates when that person or persons have in their actual possession, in the passenger  
11 compartment of their vehicle, or in the storage area of a truck or van, unless locked in a case, a  
12 crossbow, long bow (straight limb, reflex, recurve, and compound bow) rifle, gun, or pistol; and

13 (8) Upon conviction of a violation of any provision of this section or the rules and  
14 regulations promulgated under this section and section 20-1-12, in addition to the penalties  
15 provided by section 20-1-16, and the specific penalties provided herein, any weapons, guns,  
16 lights, or other equipment used in killing or attempting to kill any deer shall be forfeited to the  
17 state.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would make it a felony to hunt deer on privately owned land without the written
- 2 permission of the owner. This act would also make it a felony to make, set or use any trap or salt
- 3 lick or other device to ensnare, entice, take, injure or kill a deer.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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