
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7231

AN ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS OF TEN ACRES OR MORE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the ability to hunt on Sundays. Current law generally only allows the following on Sundays: deer hunting with bow and arrow on private property, shooting birds at private shooting preserves, and trapping. Primarily, the bill expands current law in the following ways:

1. allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to take (e.g., hunt or kill) wildlife on Sundays consistent with wildlife management principles on private lands that are 10 acres or more (§ 1);
2. allows Sunday hunting on private lands of at least 10 acres with any approved hunting implements (§ 2);
3. requires the DEEP commissioner to develop regulations that allow a person to hunt deer on private lands of at least 10 acres on Sundays with firearms (§ 4);
4. allows DEEP to authorize municipalities, homeowner associations, and nonprofit land-holding organizations to take deer on Sundays consistent with wildlife management principles if they show deer are a severe nuisance or are causing ecological damage, to the DEEP commissioner's satisfaction in a plan they file with DEEP (§ 3); and
5. allows the DEEP commissioner to authorize municipalities, homeowner associations, and nonprofit land-holding organizations to take resident Canadian geese on Sundays, consistent with wildlife management principles and a plan they

file with DEEP (§ 5).

By law, generally no one can hunt in Connecticut without first getting the appropriate licenses and permits from DEEP. Hunters must also comply with the relevant hunting regulations, which address things like the allowed hunting season, reporting requirements, and bag limits.

Under the bill, violations of the state's hunting laws carry a range of penalties depending on the specific statute violated. For example, hunting on Sundays on property that is less than 10 acres in violation of § 2 of the bill is a class D misdemeanor (subject to a fine of up to \$250, up to 30 days prison, or both) (CGS § 26-81). And a person who takes deer on Sundays on private land that is less than 10 acres in violation of § 4 of the bill is subject to a fine of between \$200 and \$500, up to 30 days prison, or both for a first violation, and a fine between \$200 and \$1,000, up to one year of prison, or both for a subsequent violation (CGS § 26-86a(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 3 (03/28/2025)