



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 586

LCO No. 4336



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BLACK BEAR HUNTING IN LITCHFIELD COUNTY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) (1) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in
4 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer
5 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and
6 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader
7 and shotgun, except that no such hunting shall be permitted on
8 Sunday by any means other than with bow and arrow on private
9 property pursuant to section 26-73. No person shall hunt, pursue,
10 wound or kill deer with a firearm without first obtaining a deer permit
11 from the commissioner in addition to the license required by section
12 26-27. Application for such permit shall be made on forms furnished
13 by the commissioner and containing such information as he may
14 require. Such permit shall be of a design prescribed by the
15 commissioner, shall contain such information and conditions as the
16 commissioner may require, and may be revoked for violation of any

17 provision of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant thereto. As
18 used in this section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle or shotgun of at least
19 forty-five caliber, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge, which
20 uses powder, a projectile, including, but not limited to, a standard
21 round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot bullets, and wadding
22 loaded separately at the muzzle end, and "rifle" means a long gun the
23 projectile of which is six millimeters or larger in diameter. The fee for a
24 firearms permit shall be nineteen dollars for residents of the state and
25 sixty-eight dollars for nonresidents, except that any nonresident who is
26 an active full-time member of the armed forces, as defined in section
27 27-103, may purchase a firearms permit for the same fee as is charged a
28 resident of the state. The commissioner shall issue, without fee, a
29 private land deer permit to the owner of ten or more acres of private
30 land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling and any
31 lineal descendant of such owner, provided no such owner, husband or
32 wife, parent, grandparent, sibling or lineal descendant shall be issued
33 more than one such permit per season. Such permit shall allow the use
34 of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from
35 November first to December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so
36 hunted at such times and in such areas of such state-owned land as are
37 designated by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
38 Protection and on privately owned land with the signed consent of the
39 landowner, on forms furnished by the department, and such signed
40 consent shall be carried by any person when so hunting on private
41 land. The owner of ten acres or more of private land may allow the use
42 of a rifle to hunt deer on such land during the shotgun season. The
43 commissioner shall determine, by regulation, the number of consent
44 forms issued for any regulated area established by said commissioner.
45 The commissioner shall provide for a fair and equitable random
46 method for the selection of successful applicants who may obtain
47 shotgun and muzzleloader permits for hunting deer on state lands.
48 Any person whose name appears on more than one application for a
49 shotgun permit or more than one application for a muzzleloader
50 permit shall be disqualified from the selection process for such permit.

51 No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and
52 arrow without first obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to
53 section 26-86c, as amended by this act. "Bow and arrow", as used in
54 this section and in section 26-86c, as amended by this act, means a bow
55 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall
56 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an
57 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind
58 while hunting with a bow and arrow under this section and section 26-
59 86c, as amended by this act.

60 (2) Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
61 section may provide for the hunting of black bear in Litchfield County
62 provided any such regulations: (A) Permit the taking of black bear
63 during the first year of such hunting at a rate that does not exceed five
64 per cent of the total black bear population in the state as of the effective
65 date of this section, (B) require the submission of a report to the joint
66 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
67 matters relating to the environment one year after the beginning of
68 such black bear hunting that includes information on the number of
69 black bear taken pursuant to such hunting, the number of licenses
70 issued by the department to hunt such black bear and any
71 recommendations of the commissioner for any modifications to such
72 black bear hunting in the state, (C) authorize such hunting only on
73 private lands, (D) prohibit such hunting on Sundays, and (E) prescribe
74 that such hunting only be by bow and arrow or long gun.

75 (b) Any person who takes a deer or black bear without a permit
76 shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than five
77 hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than
78 six months or shall be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense,
79 and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two
80 hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not
81 more than one year or shall be both fined and imprisoned. The
82 provisions of this subsection concerning black bear shall only be
83 applicable after the commissioner adopts regulations pursuant to

84 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

85 Sec. 2. Section 26-86b of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

87 The commissioner shall issue tags to be attached to the carcass of
88 any deer killed under the provisions of sections 26-82 and 26-86a to 26-
89 86c, inclusive, as amended by this act, which tag shall be immediately
90 attached to such deer and remain affixed until such carcass is dressed
91 and butchered and packaged for consumption. Each person so taking
92 deer shall, within twenty-four hours, report such kill to the
93 commissioner on a form furnished by him. The provisions of this
94 section shall apply to black bear when the commissioner adopts
95 regulations in accordance with section 26-86a, as amended by this act.

96 Sec. 3. Section 26-86c of the general statutes is repealed and the
97 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

98 No person may hunt deer, black bear or small game with a bow and
99 arrow under the provisions of this chapter without a valid permit
100 issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
101 pursuant to this section or section 26-86a, as amended by this act, for
102 persons hunting deer or black bear with bow and arrow under private
103 land deer and black bear permits issued free to qualifying landowners,
104 or their husbands or wives, parents, grandparents, lineal descendants
105 or siblings under that section. The fee for such bow and arrow permit
106 to hunt deer, black bear and small game shall be forty-one dollars for
107 residents and one hundred thirty-five dollars for nonresidents, or
108 nineteen dollars for any person twelve years of age or older but under
109 sixteen years of age, except that any nonresident who is an active full-
110 time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, may
111 purchase a bow and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small
112 game for the same fee as is charged a resident of the state. The
113 provisions of this section concerning black bear shall only be
114 applicable after the commissioner adopts regulations in accordance
115 with section 26-86a, as amended by this act. Permits to hunt with a

116 bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued
117 only to qualified applicants therefor by the Commissioner of Energy
118 and Environmental Protection, in such form as said commissioner
119 prescribes. Applications shall be made on forms furnished by the
120 commissioner containing such information as he may require and all
121 such application forms shall have printed thereon: "I declare under the
122 penalties of false statement that the statements herein made by me are
123 true and correct." Any person who makes any material false statement
124 on such application form shall be guilty of false statement and shall be
125 subject to the penalties provided for false statement and said offense
126 shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which the
127 applicant resides. No such application shall contain any material false
128 statement. On and after January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow
129 and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to
130 qualified applicants who have successfully completed the conservation
131 education bow hunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an
132 equivalent course in another state.

133 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 26-28 of the general statutes is
134 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
135 *October 1, 2019*):

136 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this
137 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
138 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
139 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
140 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing
141 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
142 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
143 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
144 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
145 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
146 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, forty
147 dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters and bow
148 and arrow permit to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued

149 pursuant to section 26-86c, as amended by this act, sixty-five dollars;
150 (10) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and
151 firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer and black
152 bear permit issued pursuant to section 26-86a, as amended by this act,
153 and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on private
154 land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, seventy dollars; (11) resident
155 archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and arrow permit
156 to hunt deer, black bear and small game issued pursuant to section 26-
157 86c, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the
158 spring season on private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a,
159 eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport license to fish in
160 all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle
161 deer and black bear permit, muzzleloader private land deer and black
162 bear permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt
163 wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-
164 four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all
165 waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and
166 migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident
167 trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping
168 license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16)
169 junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
170 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
171 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
172 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
173 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
174 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
175 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
176 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
177 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
178 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
179 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
180 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
181 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. The provisions
182 of this section concerning black bear shall only be applicable after the

183 commissioner adopts regulations in accordance with section 26-86a, as
184 amended by this act. Persons sixty-five years of age and over who have
185 been residents of this state for not less than one year and who meet the
186 requirements of subsection (b) of section 26-31 may be issued an
187 annual license to firearms hunt or to fish or combination license to fish
188 and firearms hunt or a license to trap without fee. The issuing agency
189 shall indicate on a combination license the specific purpose for which
190 such license is issued. The town clerk shall retain a recording fee of one
191 dollar for each license issued by such clerk.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	26-86a
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	26-86b
Sec. 3	October 1, 2019	26-86c
Sec. 4	October 1, 2019	26-28(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize bear hunting in the state.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MINER, 30th Dist.; SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.; REP. WILSON, 66th Dist.

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