

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing  
5 Sections 2.30, 2.30b, 2.33, and 2.33a and by adding Section  
6 2.30c as follows:

7 (520 ILCS 5/2.30) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.30)

8 Sec. 2.30. It shall be unlawful for any person to trap or  
9 to hunt with gun, dog, dog and gun, or bow and arrow, gray fox,  
10 red fox, raccoon, weasel, mink, muskrat, badger, bobcat, and  
11 opossum except during the open season which will be set  
12 annually by the Director between 12:01 a.m., November 1 to  
13 12:00 midnight, February 15, both inclusive.

14 ~~It is unlawful for any person to take bobcat in this State~~  
15 ~~at any time.~~

16 It is unlawful to pursue any fur-bearing mammal with a dog  
17 or dogs between the hours of sunset and sunrise during the 10  
18 day period preceding the opening date of the raccoon hunting  
19 season and the 10 day period following the closing date of the  
20 raccoon hunting season except that the Department may issue  
21 field trial permits in accordance with Section 2.34 of this  
22 Act. A non-resident from a state with more restrictive  
23 fur-bearer pursuit regulations for any particular species than

1 provided for that species in this Act may not pursue that  
2 species in Illinois except during the period of time that  
3 Illinois residents are allowed to pursue that species in the  
4 non-resident's state of residence. Hound running areas  
5 approved by the Department shall be exempt from the provisions  
6 of this Section.

7 It shall be unlawful to take beaver, river otter, weasel,  
8 mink, or muskrat except during the open season set annually by  
9 the Director, and then, only with traps, except that a firearm,  
10 pistol, or airgun of a caliber not larger than a .22 long rifle  
11 may be used to remove the animal from the trap.

12 It shall be unlawful for any person to trap beaver or river

13 otter with traps except during the open season which will be  
14 set annually by the Director between 12:01 a.m., November 1st  
15 and 12:00 midnight, March 31, both inclusive.

16 Coyote may be taken by trapping methods only during the  
17 period from September 1 to March 1, both inclusive, and by  
18 hunting methods at any time.

19 Striped skunk may be taken by trapping methods only during  
20 the period from September 1 to March 1, both inclusive, and by  
21 hunting methods at any time.

22 Muskrat may be taken by trapping methods during an open  
23 season set annually by the Director.

24 For the purpose of taking fur-bearing mammals, the State  
25 may be divided into management zones by administrative rule.

26 It shall be unlawful to take or possess more than the

1 season limit or possession limit of fur-bearing mammals that  
2 shall be set annually by the Director. The season limit for  
3 river otter shall not exceed 5 river otters per person per  
4 season. The season limit for bobcat shall not exceed one bobcat  
5 per permit. Possession limits shall not apply to fur buyers,  
6 tanners, manufacturers, and taxidermists, as defined by this  
7 Act, who possess fur-bearing mammals in accordance with laws  
8 governing such activities.

9 Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the taking or  
10 possessing of fur-bearing mammals found dead or  
11 unintentionally killed by a vehicle along a roadway during the  
12 open season provided the person who possesses such fur-bearing  
13 mammals has all appropriate licenses, stamps, or permits; the  
14 season for which the species possessed is open; and that such  
15 possession and disposal of such fur-bearing mammals is  
16 otherwise subject to the provisions of this Section.

17 The provisions of this Section are subject to modification  
18 by administrative rule.

19 (Source: P.A. 97-19, eff. 6-28-11; 97-31, eff. 6-28-11; 97-628,  
20 eff. 11-10-11; 98-463, eff. 8-16-13; 98-924, eff. 8-15-14.)

21 (520 ILCS 5/2.30b)

22 Sec. 2.30b. River otter and bobcat pelts. The pelts of  
23 river otters and bobcats shall be tagged in accordance with  
24 federal regulation 50 CFR 23.69(e). The Department may require  
25 harvest registration and set forth procedures, fees for

1 registration, and the process of tagging pelts in  
2 administrative rules. Fees for registration and tagging shall  
3 not exceed \$5 per pelt.

4 (Source: P.A. 97-31, eff. 6-28-11.)

5 (520 ILCS 5/2.30c new)

6 Sec. 2.30c. Bobcat hunting and trapping permit; fee. Before  
7 any person may lawfully hunt or trap a bobcat, he or she shall  
8 first obtain a "Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit" in  
9 accordance with regulations set forth in an administrative rule  
10 of the Department. The fee for a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping  
11 Permit, if any, shall not exceed \$5. The Department may limit  
12 the number of Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permits that are made  
13 available each season and take other actions to regulate  
14 harvest in accordance with Sections 1.3 and 2.30 of this Act.  
15 The harvest of bobcats in this State shall be non-detrimental,  
16 as defined by federal regulations (50 CFR 23.61), and as  
17 determined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in  
18 accordance with 50 CFR 23.69.

19 (520 ILCS 5/2.33) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.33)

20 Sec. 2.33. Prohibitions.

21 (a) It is unlawful to carry or possess any gun in any State  
22 refuge unless otherwise permitted by administrative rule.

23 (b) It is unlawful to use or possess any snare or  
24 snare-like device, deadfall, net, or pit trap to take any

HB0352 Enrolled

- 5 -

LRB099 05662 RJF 25702 b

1 species, except that snares not powered by springs or other  
2 mechanical devices may be used to trap fur-bearing mammals, in  
3 water sets only, if at least one-half of the snare noose is  
4 located underwater at all times.

5 (c) It is unlawful for any person at any time to take a  
6 wild mammal protected by this Act from its den by means of any  
7 mechanical device, spade, or digging device or to use smoke or  
8 other gases to dislodge or remove such mammal except as  
9 provided in Section 2.37.

10 (d) It is unlawful to use a ferret or any other small  
11 mammal which is used in the same or similar manner for which  
12 ferrets are used for the purpose of frightening or driving any  
13 mammals from their dens or hiding places.

14 (e) (Blank).

15 (f) It is unlawful to use spears, gigs, hooks or any like  
16 device to take any species protected by this Act.

17 (g) It is unlawful to use poisons, chemicals or explosives  
18 for the purpose of taking any species protected by this Act.  
19 (h) It is unlawful to hunt adjacent to or near any peat,  
20 grass, brush or other inflammable substance when it is burning.  
21 (i) It is unlawful to take, pursue or intentionally harass  
22 or disturb in any manner any wild birds or mammals by use or  
23 aid of any vehicle or conveyance, except as permitted by the  
24 Code of Federal Regulations for the taking of waterfowl. It is  
25 also unlawful to use the lights of any vehicle or conveyance or  
26 any light from or any light connected to the vehicle or

HB0352 Enrolled

- 6 -

LRB099 05662 RJF 25702 b

1 conveyance in any area where wildlife may be found except in  
2 accordance with Section 2.37 of this Act; however, nothing in  
3 this Section shall prohibit the normal use of headlamps for the  
4 purpose of driving upon a roadway. Striped skunk, opossum, red  
5 fox, gray fox, raccoon, bobcat, and coyote may be taken during  
6 the open season by use of a small light which is worn on the  
7 body or hand-held by a person on foot and not in any vehicle.

8 (j) It is unlawful to use any shotgun larger than 10 gauge  
9 while taking or attempting to take any of the species protected  
10 by this Act.

11 (k) It is unlawful to use or possess in the field any  
12 shotgun shell loaded with a shot size larger than lead BB or  
13 steel T (.20 diameter) when taking or attempting to take any  
14 species of wild game mammals (excluding white-tailed deer),  
15 wild game birds, migratory waterfowl or migratory game birds  
16 protected by this Act, except white-tailed deer as provided for  
17 in Section 2.26 and other species as provided for by subsection  
18 (l) or administrative rule.

19 (l) It is unlawful to take any species of wild game, except  
20 white-tailed deer and fur-bearing mammals, with a shotgun  
21 loaded with slugs unless otherwise provided for by  
22 administrative rule.

23 (m) It is unlawful to use any shotgun capable of holding  
24 more than 3 shells in the magazine or chamber combined, except  
25 on game breeding and hunting preserve areas licensed under  
26 Section 3.27 and except as permitted by the Code of Federal

HB0352 Enrolled

- 7 -

LRB099 05662 RJF 25702 b

1 Regulations for the taking of waterfowl. If the shotgun is  
2 capable of holding more than 3 shells, it shall, while being

3 used on an area other than a game breeding and shooting  
4 preserve area licensed pursuant to Section 3.27, be fitted with  
5 a one piece plug that is irremovable without dismantling the  
6 shotgun or otherwise altered to render it incapable of holding  
7 more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber, combined.

8 (n) It is unlawful for any person, except persons who  
9 possess a permit to hunt from a vehicle as provided in this  
10 Section and persons otherwise permitted by law, to have or  
11 carry any gun in or on any vehicle, conveyance or aircraft,  
12 unless such gun is unloaded and enclosed in a case, except that  
13 at field trials authorized by Section 2.34 of this Act,  
14 unloaded guns or guns loaded with blank cartridges only, may be  
15 carried on horseback while not contained in a case, or to have  
16 or carry any bow or arrow device in or on any vehicle unless  
17 such bow or arrow device is unstrung or enclosed in a case, or  
18 otherwise made inoperable.

19 (o) It is unlawful to use any crossbow for the purpose of  
20 taking any wild birds or mammals, except as provided for in  
21 Section 2.5.

22 (p) It is unlawful to take game birds, migratory game birds  
23 or migratory waterfowl with a rifle, pistol, revolver or  
24 airgun.

25 (q) It is unlawful to fire a rifle, pistol, revolver or  
26 airgun on, over or into any waters of this State, including

1 frozen waters.

2 (r) It is unlawful to discharge any gun or bow and arrow  
3 device along, upon, across, or from any public right-of-way or  
4 highway in this State.

5 (s) It is unlawful to use a silencer or other device to  
6 muffle or mute the sound of the explosion or report resulting  
7 from the firing of any gun.

8 (t) It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to  
9 take any species of wildlife or parts thereof, intentionally or  
10 wantonly allow a dog to hunt, within or upon the land of  
11 another, or upon waters flowing over or standing on the land of  
12 another, or to knowingly shoot a gun or bow and arrow device at  
13 any wildlife physically on or flying over the property of  
14 another without first obtaining permission from the owner or  
15 the owner's designee. For the purposes of this Section, the  
16 owner's designee means anyone who the owner designates in a  
17 written authorization and the authorization must contain (i)  
18 the legal or common description of property for such authority  
19 is given, (ii) the extent that the owner's designee is

20 authorized to make decisions regarding who is allowed to take  
21 or attempt to take any species of wildlife or parts thereof,  
22 and (iii) the owner's notarized signature. Before enforcing  
23 this Section the law enforcement officer must have received  
24 notice from the owner or the owner's designee of a violation of  
25 this Section. Statements made to the law enforcement officer  
26 regarding this notice shall not be rendered inadmissible by the

HB0352 Enrolled

- 9 -

LRB099 05662 RJF 25702 b

1 hearsay rule when offered for the purpose of showing the  
2 required notice.

3 (u) It is unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm  
4 for the purpose of taking any of the species protected by this  
5 Act, or hunt with gun or dog, or intentionally or wantonly  
6 allow a dog to hunt, within 300 yards of an inhabited dwelling  
7 without first obtaining permission from the owner or tenant,  
8 except that while trapping, hunting with bow and arrow, hunting  
9 with dog and shotgun using shot shells only, or hunting with  
10 shotgun using shot shells only, or providing outfitting  
11 services under a waterfowl outfitter permit, or on licensed  
12 game breeding and hunting preserve areas, as defined in Section  
13 3.27, on federally owned and managed lands and on Department  
14 owned, managed, leased, or controlled lands, a 100 yard  
15 restriction shall apply.

16 (v) It is unlawful for any person to remove fur-bearing  
17 mammals from, or to move or disturb in any manner, the traps  
18 owned by another person without written authorization of the  
19 owner to do so.

20 (w) It is unlawful for any owner of a dog to knowingly or  
21 wantonly allow his or her dog to pursue, harass or kill deer,  
22 except that nothing in this Section shall prohibit the tracking  
23 of wounded deer with a dog in accordance with the provisions of  
24 Section 2.26 of this Code.

25 (x) It is unlawful for any person to wantonly or carelessly  
26 injure or destroy, in any manner whatsoever, any real or

HB0352 Enrolled

- 10 -

LRB099 05662 RJF 25702 b

1 personal property on the land of another while engaged in  
2 hunting or trapping thereon.

3 (y) It is unlawful to hunt wild game protected by this Act  
4 between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before  
5 sunrise, except that hunting hours between one half hour after

6 sunset and one half hour before sunrise may be established by  
7 administrative rule for fur-bearing mammals.

8 (z) It is unlawful to take any game bird (excluding wild  
9 turkeys and crippled pheasants not capable of normal flight and  
10 otherwise irretrievable) protected by this Act when not flying.  
11 Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a person from carrying  
12 an uncased, unloaded shotgun in a boat, while in pursuit of a  
13 crippled migratory waterfowl that is incapable of normal  
14 flight, for the purpose of attempting to reduce the migratory  
15 waterfowl to possession, provided that the attempt is made  
16 immediately upon downing the migratory waterfowl and is done  
17 within 400 yards of the blind from which the migratory  
18 waterfowl was downed. This exception shall apply only to  
19 migratory game birds that are not capable of normal flight.  
20 Migratory waterfowl that are crippled may be taken only with a  
21 shotgun as regulated by subsection (j) of this Section using  
22 shotgun shells as regulated in subsection (k) of this Section.

23 (aa) It is unlawful to use or possess any device that may  
24 be used for tree climbing or cutting, while hunting fur-bearing  
25 mammals, excluding coyotes.

26 (bb) It is unlawful for any person, except licensed game

1 breeders, pursuant to Section 2.29 to import, carry into, or  
2 possess alive in this State any species of wildlife taken  
3 outside of this State, without obtaining permission to do so  
4 from the Director.

5 (cc) It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her  
6 possession any freshly killed species protected by this Act  
7 during the season closed for taking.

8 (dd) It is unlawful to take any species protected by this  
9 Act and retain it alive except as provided by administrative  
10 rule.

11 (ee) It is unlawful to possess any rifle while in the field  
12 during gun deer season except as provided in Section 2.26 and  
13 administrative rules.

14 (ff) It is unlawful for any person to take any species  
15 protected by this Act, except migratory waterfowl, during the  
16 gun deer hunting season in those counties open to gun deer  
17 hunting, unless he or she wears, when in the field, a cap and  
18 upper outer garment of a solid blaze orange color, with such  
19 articles of clothing displaying a minimum of 400 square inches  
20 of blaze orange material.

21 (gg) It is unlawful during the upland game season for any  
22 person to take upland game with a firearm unless he or she

23 wears, while in the field, a cap of solid blaze orange color.  
24 For purposes of this Act, upland game is defined as Bobwhite  
25 Quail, Hungarian Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, Eastern  
26 Cottontail and Swamp Rabbit.

1 (hh) It shall be unlawful to kill or cripple any species  
2 protected by this Act for which there is a bag limit without  
3 making a reasonable effort to retrieve such species and include  
4 such in the bag limit. It shall be unlawful for any person  
5 having control over harvested game mammals, game birds, or  
6 migratory game birds for which there is a bag limit to wantonly  
7 waste or destroy the usable meat of the game, except this shall  
8 not apply to wildlife taken under Sections 2.37 or 3.22 of this  
9 Code. For purposes of this subsection, "usable meat" means the  
10 breast meat of a game bird or migratory game bird and the hind  
11 ham and front shoulders of a game mammal. It shall be unlawful  
12 for any person to place, leave, dump, or abandon a wildlife  
13 carcass or parts of it along or upon a public right-of-way or  
14 highway or on public or private property, including a waterway  
15 or stream, without the permission of the owner or tenant. It  
16 shall not be unlawful to discard game meat that is determined  
17 to be unfit for human consumption.

18 (ii) This Section shall apply only to those species  
19 protected by this Act taken within the State. Any species or  
20 any parts thereof, legally taken in and transported from other  
21 states or countries, may be possessed within the State, except  
22 as provided in this Section and Sections 2.35, 2.36 and 3.21.

23 (jj) (Blank).

24 (kk) Nothing contained in this Section shall prohibit the  
25 Director from issuing permits to paraplegics or to other  
26 disabled persons who meet the requirements set forth in

1 administrative rule to shoot or hunt from a vehicle as provided  
2 by that rule, provided that such is otherwise in accord with  
3 this Act.

4 (ll) Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the  
5 taking of aquatic life protected by the Fish and Aquatic Life  
6 Code or birds and mammals protected by this Act, except deer  
7 and fur-bearing mammals, from a boat not camouflaged or  
8 disguised to alter its identity or to further provide a place



9 of concealment and not propelled by sail or mechanical power.  
10 However, only shotguns not larger than 10 gauge nor smaller  
11 than .410 bore loaded with not more than 3 shells of a shot  
12 size no larger than lead BB or steel T (.20 diameter) may be  
13 used to take species protected by this Act.

14 (mm) Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the use  
15 of a shotgun, not larger than 10 gauge nor smaller than a 20  
16 gauge, with a rifled barrel.

17 (nn) It shall be unlawful to possess any species of  
18 wildlife or wildlife parts taken unlawfully in Illinois, any  
19 other state, or any other country, whether or not the wildlife  
20 or wildlife parts is indigenous to Illinois. For the purposes  
21 of this subsection, the statute of limitations for unlawful  
22 possession of wildlife or wildlife parts shall not cease until  
23 2 years after the possession has permanently ended.

24 (Source: P.A. 97-645, eff. 12-30-11; 97-907, eff. 8-7-12;  
25 98-119, eff. 1-1-14; 98-181, eff. 8-5-13; 98-183, eff. 1-1-14;  
26 98-290, eff. 8-9-13; 98-756, eff. 7-16-14; 98-914, eff.

1 1-1-15.)

2 (520 ILCS 5/2.33a) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.33a)  
3 Sec. 2.33a. Trapping.

4 (a) It is unlawful to fail to visit and remove all animals  
5 from traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed or maintained  
6 at least once each calendar day.

7 (b) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use, or  
8 maintain a leghold trap or one of similar construction on land,  
9 that has a jaw spread of larger than 6 1/2 inches (16.6 CM), or  
10 a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction having a  
11 jaw spread larger than 7 inches (17.8 CM) on a side if square  
12 and 8 inches (20.4 CM) if round.

13 (c) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use, or  
14 maintain a leghold trap or one of similar construction in  
15 water, that has a jaw spread of larger than 7 1/2 inches (19.1  
16 CM), or a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction  
17 having a jaw spread larger than 10 inches (25.4 CM) on a side  
18 if square and 12 inches (30.5 CM) if round.

19 (d) It is unlawful to use any trap with saw-toothed,  
20 spiked, or toothed jaws.

21 (e) It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or in any manner  
22 interfere with dams, lodges, burrows or feed beds of beaver  
23 while trapping for beaver or to set a trap inside a muskrat  
24 house or beaver lodge, except that this shall not apply to

1 Section 2.37.

2 (f) It is unlawful to trap beaver or river otter with: (1)  
3 a leghold trap or one of similar construction having a jaw  
4 spread of less than 5 1/2 inches (13.9 CM) or more than 7 1/2  
5 inches (19.1 CM), or (2) a body-gripping trap or one of similar  
6 construction having a jaw spread of less than 7 inches (17.7  
7 CM) or more than 10 inches (25.4 CM) on a side if square and 12  
8 inches (30.5 CM) if round, except that these restrictions shall  
9 not apply during the open season for trapping raccoons.

10 (g) It is unlawful to set traps closer than 10 feet (3.05  
11 M) from any hole or den which may be occupied by a game mammal  
12 or fur-bearing mammal except that this restriction shall not  
13 apply to water sets.

14 (h) It is unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any  
15 fur-bearing mammal with any colony, cage, box, or stove-pipe  
16 trap designed to take more than one mammal at a single setting.

17 (i) It is unlawful for any person to set or place any trap  
18 designed to take any fur-bearing mammal protected by this Act  
19 during the closed trapping season. Proof that any trap was  
20 placed during the closed trapping season shall be deemed prima  
21 facie evidence of a violation of this provision.

22 (j) It is unlawful to place, set, or maintain any leghold  
23 trap or one of similar construction within thirty (30) feet  
24 (9.14 m) of bait placed in such a manner or position that it is  
25 not completely covered and concealed from sight, except that  
26 this shall not apply to underwater sets. Bait shall mean and

1 include any bait composed of mammal, bird, or fish flesh, fur,  
2 hide, entrails or feathers.

3 (k) ~~(Blank). It shall be unlawful for hunters or trappers~~  
4 ~~to have the green hides of fur bearing mammals, protected by~~  
5 ~~this Act, in their possession except during the open season and~~  
6 ~~for an additional period of 10 days succeeding such open~~  
7 ~~season.~~

8 (l) It is unlawful for any person to place, set, use or  
9 maintain a snare trap or one of similar construction in water,  
10 that has a loop diameter exceeding 15 inches (38.1 CM) or a  
11 cable or wire diameter of more than 1/8 inch (3.2 MM) or less

12 than 5/64 inch (2.0 MM), that is constructed of stainless steel  
13 metal cable or wire, and that does not have a mechanical lock,  
14 anchor swivel and stop device to prevent the mechanical lock  
15 from closing the noose loop to a diameter of less than 2 1/2  
16 inches (6.4 CM).

17 (m) It is unlawful to trap muskrat or mink with (1) a  
18 leghold trap or one of similar construction or (2) a  
19 body-gripping trap or one of similar construction unless the  
20 body-gripping trap or similar trap is completely submerged  
21 underwater when set. These restrictions shall not apply during  
22 the open season for trapping raccoons.

23 (Source: P.A. 97-19, eff. 6-28-11; 97-31, eff. 6-28-11; 97-813,  
24 eff. 7-13-12.)