



§116.3. Special provisions applicable to deer and bear; times and methods of taking; penalties

A.(1) No person shall do any of the following:

(a) Hunt or shoot a deer or bear at any time with a firearm smaller than a .22 caliber centerfire, or a shotgun using a shell loaded with shot less than buckshot or rifled slug, or a bow with less than thirty pounds of pull, or other than arrows with broadhead points.

(b) Hunt or shoot deer while on a highway or road right of way, or stand, loiter, hunt, or shoot game quadrupeds or game birds while on a highway or road right of way that is maintained by the federal government, the state government, the state, or any parish, with a gun during open season.

(c) Take deer while deer are swimming or while the hunter is in a boat with motor attached in operating position; however, the restrictions in this Paragraph shall not apply to any person who has lost one or more limbs.

(d) Take or possess spotted fawn or parts thereof, except in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:105(A) and 171(A).

(2) Violation of any of the provisions of this Subsection, except Paragraph (1)(d), constitutes a class two violation. Violation of the provisions of Paragraph (1)(d) constitutes a class 5-A violation.

B. A licensee having a disability which totally and permanently prevents his using a long bow or other conventional archery equipment, as first certified by a medical doctor duly licensed to practice medicine in this state, and having an approved permit from the department, shall be permitted to take legal deer with a crossbow or a bow that is drawn, held, and released by mechanical means, and the taking of deer with a crossbow or a bow that is drawn, held, and released by mechanical means shall be permitted in the season in which deer may be taken by rifle, or a handgun, or a shotgun not larger than a No. 10 gauge, as well as in the special deer hunting season provided in R.S. 56:116. Magnified scopes may be used with crossbows.

C.(1) No person shall possess any of the following:

(a) Illegally taken deer or bear.

(b) Freshly killed deer or bear in the closed season.

(2) Violation of any of the provisions of this Subsection constitutes a class four violation.

D. No person shall hunt or take illegal deer or bear in the open season. Violation of this Subsection constitutes a class 5-A violation.

E. No person shall hunt or take deer or bear in the closed season. Violation of this Subsection constitutes a class six violation.

F. No person shall hunt or take deer from one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise. Violation of this Subsection constitutes a class six violation and, in addition, the violator may lose all hunting privileges for a period of not more than five years.

G. Except in wildlife management areas, a leashed dog may be used to trail and retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer during legal hunting hours. Any dog used to trail or retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer shall have on a collar with the owner's name, address, and phone number. In addition, a leashed dog may be used to trail and retrieve unrecovered deer after legal hunting hours; however, no person accompanying a dog after legal hunting hours may carry a firearm of any sort.

Acts 1992, No. 966, §1; Acts 1993, No. 239, §1; Acts 1999, No. 255, §1; Acts 2001, No. 1210, §1; Acts 2006, No. 775, §1.