

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 517 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, VOGEL, FONTANA AND PENNYCUICK,  
MARCH 25, 2025

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 25, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further providing  
3 for organization of commission; in game or wildlife  
4 protection, further providing for report to commission  
5 officer and for surrender of carcass to commission officer;  
6 in hunting and furtaking, further providing for trespass on  
7 private property while hunting; and, in special licenses and  
8 permits, providing for agriculture access permit list.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 301(a) of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania  
12 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by  
13 adding a subsection to read:

14 § 301. Organization of commission.

15 (a) Composition.--The independent administrative commission  
16 known as the Pennsylvania Game Commission shall consist of nine  
17 competent citizens of this Commonwealth who shall be well  
18 informed on the subject of wildlife conservation and restoration  
19 and who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the  
20 advice and consent of a majority of the elected members of the  
21 Senate. The Governor shall ensure that at least one member

1 appointed to the commission represents the interest of  
2 agricultural commodities that pertain to normal agricultural  
3 operations and wildlife.

4 \* \* \*

5 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
6 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
7 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Agricultural commodity." As defined in section 2 of the act  
9 of June 10, 1982 (P.L.454, No.133), referred to as the Right-to-  
10 Farm Law.

11 "Normal agricultural operation." As defined in section 2 of  
12 the Right-to-Farm Law.

13 Section 2. Sections 2122, 2125 and 2314(a), (b) and (c) of  
14 Title 34 are amended to read:

15 § 2122. Report to commission officer.

16 Any person who kills any game or wildlife, other than  
17 raccoons, under the provisions of this subchapter shall, within  
18 24 hours, report, orally or in writing, the killing to an  
19 officer of the commission. The report shall set forth the date,  
20 time and place of the killing, the number of species killed  
21 [and], the sex of the species[.] and the location of each  
22 carcass. The commission shall establish a self-reporting system  
23 that allows a person assigned to remove deer for crop damage  
24 purposes to report each harvest to an officer of the commission  
25 via a toll-free telephone number, online application or publicly  
26 accessible Internet website.

27 § 2125. Surrender of carcass [to commission officer].

28 Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the entire  
29 carcass, including the head and hide[.] of all big game animals  
30 and the entire carcass of any other game or wildlife, other than

1 raccoons, less entrails, shall be made available, unless  
2 otherwise directed by an officer of the commission, intact[,  
3 less entrails,] to any commission officer calling for them[.] or  
4 delivered to a processor for final disposition. As used in this  
5 section, the term "processor" means a location specified by the  
6 commission that is willing to accept donations of animals taken  
7 under this chapter.

8 § 2314. Trespass on private property while hunting.

9 (a) [General rule] Trespass.--A person, while engaged in  
10 hunting or furtaking, commits an offense if, knowing that the  
11 person is not licensed or privileged to do so, the person:

12 (1) enters or remains on any land of another without  
13 authorization to do so, when the land is posted in a manner  
14 prescribed by law or reasonably likely to come to the  
15 person's attention [or is fenced or enclosed in a manner  
16 manifestly designed to exclude trespassers; or];

17 (2) enters or remains on any land of another without  
18 authorization and defies an order not to enter or to leave  
19 that has been personally communicated to the person by the  
20 owner of the land or other authorized person[.];

21 (3) enters or remains on any land of another without  
22 authorization to do so, when the land is fenced or enclosed  
23 in a manner manifestly designed to exclude trespassers; or

24 (4) subject to subsection (b), enters or remains on any  
25 land of another without authorization to do so when notice  
26 against trespass is given by the placement of identifying  
27 purple paint marks on trees or posts on the property in  
28 accordance with 18 Pa.C.S. § 3503(b)(1)(vi) (relating to  
29 criminal trespass).

30 (b) Applicability.--This section shall not apply to an

1 unarmed person who enters onto posted property for the sole  
2 purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. Subsection (a) (4) shall not  
3 apply in a county of the first class or a county of the second  
4 class.

5 (c) Penalty.--An offense under this section shall be graded  
6 as follows:

7 (1) A person who violates subsection (a) (1), (3) or (4)  
8 commits a summary offense of the [third degree.] second  
9 degree and may result in forfeiture of the privilege to hunt  
10 or take game or wildlife anywhere within this Commonwealth  
11 for a period of up to one year.

12 (2) A person who violates subsection (a) (2) commits a  
13 misdemeanor[.] and shall result in forfeiture of the  
14 privilege to hunt or take game or wildlife anywhere within  
15 this Commonwealth for a period of three years.

16 (3) A person who commits a second or subsequent  
17 violation of this section within a seven-year period commits  
18 a misdemeanor, and the second or subsequent violation shall  
19 result in forfeiture of the privilege to hunt or take game or  
20 wildlife anywhere within this Commonwealth for a period of  
21 [one year] five years.

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 3. Title 34 is amended by adding a section to read:  
24 § 2931. Agriculture access permit list.

25 No later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall develop  
26 and implement a program to connect landowners experiencing  
27 wildlife-related damage with qualified hunters who are available  
28 to assist in wildlife population control. The program shall  
29 include all of the following:

30 (1) A system for landowners to request assistance from

1 qualified hunters.

2 (2) A database, maintained by the commission, of hunters  
3 who demonstrate the qualifications specified by the  
4 commission for the program and who have elected to  
5 participate in the program.

6 (3) A mechanism for matching landowners with qualified  
7 hunters based on geographic proximity, level of need and  
8 hunter availability.

9 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.