

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 518 Session of
2025INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, LAUGHLIN, HUTCHINSON, KEEFER AND DUSH,
MARCH 25, 2025AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
JUNE 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, FOR SURRENDER OF CARCASS TO COMMISSION OFFICER, FOR
6 unlawful activities and for killing game or wildlife to
7 protect person; and, in hunting and furtaking, further
8 providing for investigation and seizure of game or wildlife.

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

11 ~~Section 1. Sections 2126(a)(6), 2141(b) and 2313(a) of Title <--~~
12 ~~34 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to~~
13 ~~read:~~

14 SECTION 1. SECTION 301(A) OF TITLE 34 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--
15 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY
16 ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

17 § 301. ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION.

18 (A) COMPOSITION.--THE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
19 KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF NINE
20 COMPETENT CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO SHALL BE WELL

1 INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION
2 AND WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, BY AND WITH THE
3 ADVICE AND CONSENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE
4 SENATE. THE GOVERNOR SHALL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER
5 APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION REPRESENTS THE INTEREST OF
6 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THAT PERTAIN TO NORMAL AGRICULTURAL
7 OPERATIONS AND WILDLIFE.

8 * * *

9 (E) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING
10 WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
11 SUBSECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

12 "AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF THE ACT
13 OF JUNE 10, 1982 (P.L.454, NO.133), REFERRED TO AS THE RIGHT-TO-
14 FARM LAW.

15 "NORMAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATION." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF
16 THE RIGHT-TO-FARM LAW.

17 SECTION 2. SECTIONS 2122, 2125, 2126(A)(6), 2141(B) AND
18 2313(A) OF TITLE 34 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

19 § 2122. REPORT TO COMMISSION OFFICER.

20 ANY PERSON WHO KILLS ANY GAME OR WILDLIFE, OTHER THAN
21 RACCOONS, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL, WITHIN
22 24 HOURS, REPORT, ORALLY OR IN WRITING, THE KILLING TO AN
23 OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION. THE REPORT SHALL SET FORTH THE DATE,
24 TIME AND PLACE OF THE KILLING, THE NUMBER OF SPECIES KILLED [AND
25 THE SEX OF THE SPECIES.], THE SEX OF THE SPECIES AND THE
26 LOCATION OF EACH CARCASS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A SELF-
27 REPORTING SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A PERSON ASSIGNED TO REMOVE DEER
28 FOR CROP DAMAGE PURPOSES TO REPORT EACH HARVEST TO AN OFFICER OF
29 THE COMMISSION VIA A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER, ONLINE
30 APPLICATION OR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

1 § 2125. SURRENDER OF CARCASS [TO COMMISSION OFFICER].

2 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER, THE ENTIRE
3 CARCASS, INCLUDING THE HEAD AND HIDE, OF ALL BIG GAME ANIMALS
4 AND THE ENTIRE CARCASS OF ANY OTHER GAME OR WILDLIFE, OTHER THAN
5 RACCOONS, LESS ENTRAILS, SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE, UNLESS
6 OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY AN OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION, INTACT,
7 [LESS ENTRAILS,] TO ANY COMMISSION OFFICER CALLING FOR THEM[.]
8 OR DELIVERED TO A PROCESSOR FOR FINAL DISPOSITION. AS USED IN
9 THIS SECTION, THE TERM "PROCESSOR" MEANS A LOCATION SPECIFIED BY
10 THE COMMISSION THAT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF ANIMALS
11 TAKEN UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

12 § 2126. Unlawful activities.

13 (a) General rule.--It is unlawful for any person while
14 acting under the provisions of this subchapter to:

15 * * *

16 [(6) Refuse to answer, without evasion, upon request of
17 any representative of the commission, any pertinent question
18 pertaining to the killing or wounding of any game or wildlife
19 killed or wounded, or the disposition of the entire carcass
20 or any part thereof.]

21 * * *

22 § 2141. Killing game or wildlife to protect person.

23 * * *

24 (b) Report, safekeeping and investigation.--A person killing
25 any game or wildlife under this subchapter shall report the
26 event to an officer as soon as possible following the incident
27 but in no case later than 24 hours, provide for safekeeping of
28 the game or wildlife intact at the place where it was killed and
29 be available for interview by the officer. [The person killing
30 the game or wildlife shall answer, without evasion, any

1 pertinent questions of the officer making the investigation.]

2 * * *

3 § 2313. Investigation and seizure of game or wildlife.

4 [(a) Response to questions.--The operator of any vehicle or
5 craft transporting any game or wildlife shall answer, without
6 evasion, any pertinent question posed by a commission officer.]

7 * * *

8 Section ~~2~~ 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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