

The House Committee on Game, Fish and Parks offers the following substitute to HB 1174:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions relative to wildlife, so as to provide that it shall be lawful to  
3 hunt wildlife with a crossbow under certain conditions; to repeal a provision permitting  
4 certain handguns to be used in hunting under certain conditions; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 general provisions relative to wildlife, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section  
9 27-3-4, relating to legal weapons for hunting wildlife generally, and inserting in lieu thereof  
10 the following:  
11

12 "27-3-4.

13 It shall be unlawful to hunt wildlife with any weapon, except that:

14 (1) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows may be used for taking  
15 small game or big game. Arrows for hunting deer must be broadhead type;

16 (2) During primitive weapon hunts or primitive weapons seasons, longbows, recurve  
17 bows, crossbows, compound bows, muzzleloading firearms of .44 caliber or larger with  
18 iron sights only and without telescopic sights and muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge  
19 or larger loaded with single shot may be used;

20 (3) Firearms for hunting deer, bear, and feral hogs are limited to 20 gauge shotguns or  
21 larger shotguns loaded with slugs or buckshot (except that no buckshot is permitted on  
22 state wildlife management areas unless otherwise specified), muzzleloading firearms of  
23 .44 caliber or larger, and ~~rifles using any center-fire cartridge~~ firearms .22 caliber or  
24 larger; provided, however, that firearms for hunting feral hogs, other than those weapons  
25 specified in this paragraph, may be authorized by rule or regulation of the board.  
26 ~~Handguns capable of delivering at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at a distance of 100~~

yards may be used for hunting deer, bear, or feral hogs. Bullets used in all center-fire rifles and handguns must be of the expanding type;

(4) Weapons for hunting small game shall be limited to shotguns with shot shell size of no greater than 3 ½ inches in length with No. 2 lead shot or smaller or federally approved nontoxic shot size of F or smaller shot, .22 rimfire firearms, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows; provided, however, that nothing contained in this paragraph shall permit the taking of protected species;

(5)(A) For hunting deer and bear, shotguns shall be limited to a capacity of not more than five shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is necessary to so limit the capacity, the plug shall be of one piece, incapable of being removed through the loading end of the magazine.

(B) For hunting all other game, shotguns shall be limited to a capacity of not more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is necessary to so limit the capacity, the plug shall be of one piece, incapable of being removed through the loading end of the magazine;

~~(6) The use of crossbows for hunting within this state is prohibited except under such circumstances and conditions as the board shall prescribe by rule or regulation for persons suffering from permanent disabilities. Such rules or regulations may require that any person hunting with a crossbow obtain and retain in his or her possession a permit to hunt big game with a crossbow. Individuals who have received a special crossbow hunting permit from the department prior to July 1, 1994, may continue to hunt big game with a crossbow;~~

~~(7)~~(6) It shall be unlawful to hunt turkey with any weapons except shotguns using No. 2 shot or smaller, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, crossbows, recurve bows, or compound bows. Any person taking turkey in violation of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor, except that a fine imposed for such violation shall not be less than \$250.00;

~~(8)~~(7) There are no firearms restrictions for taking nongame animals or nongame birds; and

~~(9)~~(8) The use of silencers for hunting within this state is prohibited."

## SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.