

House Bill 814

By: Representatives Lane of the 101st, Barnes of the 84th, Post 2, Hill of the 81st, Warren of the 99th, Brock of the 5th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so
2 as to provide for the taking of certain wildlife; to change certain provisions relating to
3 licenses for archery and primitive weapons hunting, all weapons hunting licenses, license
4 card carrier requirements, and lifetime sportsman's licenses; to change certain provisions
5 relating to trout, big game, and official Georgia waterfowl licenses; to change certain
6 provisions relating to hunting at night; to change certain provisions relating to legal weapons
7 for hunting wildlife generally; to change certain provisions relating to hunting of wildlife or
8 feral hogs from boats, aircraft, or motor vehicles; to repeal certain provisions relating to
9 taking, capturing, and killing diamondback terrapins; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
10 purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended by
14 striking subsection (c) of Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to licenses for archery and
15 primitive weapons hunting, all weapons hunting licenses, license card carrier requirements,
16 and lifetime sportsman's licenses, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

17 "(c) The requirements in this title for procuring any license or permit for noncommercial
18 hunting and fishing privileges, except for hunting alligators, shall be satisfied by a resident
19 who procures a sportsman license. An applicant for such license shall, prior to the issuance
20 of the license, complete a screening questionnaire associated with the federal Migratory
21 Bird Harvest Information Program."

22 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

23 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 27-2-6, relating to trout, big game, and
24 official Georgia waterfowl licenses, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "27-2-6.

2 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to fish for or
3 possess mountain trout or to fish in any waters designated as trout waters or trout streams
4 pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 unless such person has in his or her possession a trout
5 license in addition to his or her fishing license.

6 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or
7 possess big game unless such person has in his or her possession a big game license in
8 addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that all nonresidents,
9 regardless of age, must possess a nonresident hunting license along with any harvest
10 records required by law or regulation to hunt big game in this state.

11 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt ducks,
12 geese, or swans unless such person has in his or her possession an official Georgia
13 waterfowl license in addition to the required hunting license.

14 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt
15 alligators unless such person has in his or her possession an alligator hunting license in
16 addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that this subsection shall not
17 apply to lifetime license holders.

18 ~~(d)~~(e) No resident of this state shall be required to obtain a trout license, official Georgia
19 waterfowl license, or big game license to hunt, fish, or trap on premises owned by him or
20 her or his or her immediate family.

21 ~~(e)~~(f) Any visitor to a state park, whether a resident or nonresident of Georgia, shall not
22 be required to purchase a trout license when fishing in impounded waters on lands owned
23 or leased by the department."

24 **SECTION 3.**

25 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 27-3-2, relating to hunting at night,
26 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

27 "27-3-2.

28 It shall be unlawful to hunt at night any game bird or game animal in this state except for
29 alligators, raccoons, opossums, foxes, and bobcats; and these may. Alligators may be
30 hunted with a light which does not exceed 12 volts. Raccoons, opossums, foxes, and
31 bobcats shall not be hunted with lights, except that a light which does not exceed six volts
32 or a fuel-type lantern may be carried by hand by a hunter or worn on the hunter's belt and
33 used for locating such animals."

1 **SECTION 6.**

2 Said title is further amended by striking and reserving Code Section 27-4-116, relating to
3 taking, capturing, and killing diamondback terrapins.

4 **SECTION 7.**

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