

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment offered the following substitute to SB 122:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by the board, possession of  
3 more than bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed, so as to change certain provisions  
4 relating to open seasons for the hunting of deer and certain small game animals; to provide  
5 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

9 Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to seasons and bag  
10 limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by the board, possession of more than bag limit,  
11 and reporting number of deer killed, is amended by revising subsections (a), (b), and (c) as  
12 follows:

13 "(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the periods  
14 set forth below:

<u>Game Species</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
(1) Quail	March 16 — Oct. 31
(2) Grouse	March † 6 — Oct. 14
(3) Turkey	
(A) Gobblers	May 22 — March 14
(B) Hens	All year

- 21 (4) Deer Jan. 16 — Sept. 7; except that the
- 22 closed season may be Feb. 1 - Sept.
- 23 7 ~~in those counties specified as~~
- 24 having for purposes of an extended
- 25 archery-only open season as
- 26 provided for in paragraph (4) of
- 27 subsection (b) of this Code section
- 28 (5) Bobcat March † 6 — Oct. 14
- 29 (6) Opossum March † 6 — Oct. 14, for that area
- 30 north of and including Haralson,
- 31 Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee,
- 32 Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and
- 33 Hart counties
- 34 (7) Rabbit March † 6 — Oct. 31
- 35 (8) Raccoon March † 6 — Oct. 14, for that area
- 36 north of and including Carroll,
- 37 Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke,
- 38 Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and
- 39 Lincoln counties
- 40 (9) Squirrel March † 6 — August 14
- 41 (10) Bear Jan. 16 — Sept. 7
- 42 (11) Sea turtles and their eggs All year
- 43 (12) Cougar (Felis concolor) All year
- 44 (13) Alligators Nov. 1 — March 31
- 45 (14) Migratory game birds March 11 — August 31

46 (b) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the period  
 47 set forth below, except that it shall not be unlawful to hunt the following game species  
 48 during such periods or portions thereof, and in such number not to exceed the following  
 49 numbers, as may be designated by the board as open seasons and bag limits for such  
 50 species:

	<u>Game Species</u>	<u>Maximum Open Season</u>	<u>Maximum Bag Limits</u>	
			<u>Daily</u>	<u>Season</u>
51	(1) Quail	Nov. 1 — March 15	12	No limit
52	(2) Grouse	Oct. 15 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u>	3	No limit

55	(3) Turkey	March 15 — May 21	3	3
56	gobblers			
57	(4) Deer	Sept. 8 — Jan. 15; except that there may	The daily	Up to two
58		be also an extended archery-only open	limit shall	deer per
59		season <del>Jan. 1 — Jan. 31 in the counties of</del>	be ten	managed
60		<del>Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton,</del>	antlerless	hunt may be
61		<del>Gwinnett, and Rockdale due to the extra</del>	deer and	allowed on
62		<del>need for herd reduction in that urban and</del>	two	wildlife
63		<del>suburban area of the state <u>Jan. 16 —</u></del>	antlered	management
64		<u>Jan. 31</u>	bucks.	areas
65			The season	without
66			limit shall	complying
67			be ten	with the
68			antlerless	state-wide
69			deer and	bag limit
70			two	
71			antlered	
72			bucks.	
73			Only one	
74			antlered	
75			buck may	
76			have less	
77			than four	
78			points one	
79			inch or	
80			longer on	
81			one side of	
82			the antlers.	
83	(5) Bobcat	Oct. 15 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u>	No limit	No limit
84	(6) Opossum	(A) Oct. 15 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u> , for that	No limit	No limit
85		area north of and including Haralson,		
86		Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Forsyth,		
87		Hall, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties;		
88		and		
89		(B) Jan. 1 — Dec. 31 for the	No limit	No limit
90		remainder of the state		

91	(7) Rabbit	Nov. 1 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u>	12	No limit
92	(8) Raccoon	(A) Oct. 15 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u> , for that	No limit	No limit
93		area north of and including Carroll,		
94		Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke,		
95		Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and		
96		Lincoln counties; and		
97		(B) Jan. 1 — Dec. 31 for the	No limit	No limit
98		remainder of the state		
99	(9) Squirrel	Aug. 15 — <del>Feb. 29</del> <u>March 5</u>	12	No limit
100	(10) Fox	Jan. 1 — Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
101	(11) Migratory	Sept. 1 — March 10	Subject to limits set by	
102	game		the federal government	
103	birds		and adopted by the	
104			board	
105	(12) Bear	Sept. 8 — Jan. 15	2	2
106	(13) Alligators	April 1 — Oct. 31	Subject to limits	
107			adopted by the board	

108 (c) In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section and as may be appropriate, based  
 109 on sound wildlife management principles, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and  
 110 regulations establishing open seasons on a state-wide, regional, or local basis and  
 111 establishing daily and season bag limits; provided, however, that the closing date of the  
 112 open season for hunting deer with firearms shall be uniform statewide."

113 **SECTION 2.**

114 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
 115 without such approval.

116 **SECTION 3.**

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