

The House Committee on Game, Fish and Parks offers the following substitute to HB 950:

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 hunting seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by board, possession
3 of more than the bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed; to modify seasons and bag
4 limits for deer, opossum, and racoon; to remove formal report requirements; to authorize the
5 Department of Natural Resources to implement a deer management assistance program; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other 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 hunting seasons
10 and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by board, possession of more than the
11 bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed, is amended by revising subsections (a), (b),
12 and (g), as 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>
16 (1) Quail	March 16 — Oct. 31
17 (2) Grouse	March 1 — Oct. 14
18 (3) Turkey	
19 (A) Gobblers	May 22 — March 14
20 (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 an extended archery-only
- 25 open season in paragraph (4) of
- 26 subsection (b) of this Code section
- 27 (5) Bobcat March 1 — Oct. 14
- 28 (6) Opossum March 1 — Oct. 14; ~~for that area~~
- 29 ~~north of and including Haralson,~~
- 30 ~~Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee,~~
- 31 ~~Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and~~
- 32 ~~Hart counties~~
- 33
- 34
- 35 (7) Rabbit March 1 — Oct. 31
- 36 (8) Raccoon March 1 — Oct. 14; ~~for that area~~
- 37 ~~north of and including Carroll,~~
- 38 ~~Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke,~~
- 39 ~~Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and~~
- 40 ~~Lincoln counties~~
- 41 (9) Squirrel March 1 — August 14
- 42 (10) Bear Jan. 16 — Sept. 7
- 43 (11) Sea turtles and their eggs All year
- 44 (12) Cougar (*Felis concolor*) All year
- 45 (13) Alligators Nov. 1 — March 31
- 46 (14) Migratory game birds March 11 — August 31

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

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

56	(3) Turkey	March 15 — May 21	3	3
57	gobblers			
58	(4) Deer	Sept. 8 — Jan. 15; except that there may	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
59		be also an extended archery-only open		
60		season Jan. 1– Jan. 31 in the counties of		
61		<u>Bibb, Chatham, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb,</u>		
62		<u>DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett,</u>		
63		<u>Henry, and Rockdale</u> due to the extra		
64		need for herd reduction in that urban and		
65		suburban area of the state		
66		<u>As may be appropriate and based solely</u>	The daily limit shall be	
67		<u>on sound wildlife management</u>	ten antlerless deer and	
68		<u>principles, the department is authorized</u>	two antlered bucks. The	
69		<u>to develop a deer management assistance</u>	season limit shall be ten	
70		<u>program that may include applicable fees</u>	antlerless deer and two	
71		<u>and may prescribe property-specific deer</u>	antlered bucks.	
72		<u>harvest seasons without complying with</u>	Only one antlered buck	
73		<u>the state-wide bag limit as part of such</u>	may have less than four	
74		<u>program as follows:</u>	points one inch or	
75		<u>(1) The closed season for deer under</u>	longer on one side of	
76		<u>a deer management assistance</u>	the antlers.	
77		<u>program shall be February</u>	Up to two deer per	
78		<u>1–September 7; and</u>	managed hunt may be	
79		<u>(2) The maximum open season for</u>	allowed on wildlife	
80		<u>deer under a deer management</u>	management areas	
81		<u>assistance program shall be</u>	without complying with	
82		<u>September 8–January 15; except that</u>	the state-wide bag limit.	
		<u>there may be also an extended</u>		
		<u>archery-only open season Jan. 1–Jan.</u>		
		<u>31 statewide.</u>		
83	(5) Bobcat	Oct. 15 — Feb. 29	No limit	No limit
84	(6) Opossum	(A) Oct. 15 — Feb. 29, for that area	No limit	No limit
85		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 — Feb. 29	12	No limit
92	(8) Raccoon	(A) Oct. 15 — Feb. 29, for that area	No limit	No limit
93		north of and including Carroll, Fulton,		
94		Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke, Oglethorpe,		
95		Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties;		
96		and		
97		(B) Jan. 1 — Dec. 31 for the	No limit	No limit
98		remainder of the state		
99	(9) Squirrel	Aug. 15 — Feb. 29	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	
102	game		by the federal	
103	birds		government and	
104			adopted by the 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	"(g)(1) The department shall report to the General Assembly on or before the fifth day			
109	of February of each year the estimated number of deer killed, by sex, in the immediately			
110	preceding season.			
111	(2) Upon completion of its annual analysis of data from the immediately preceding			
112	season, the department shall report to the General Assembly on the same day that it			
113	reports to the Board of Natural Resources each year the actual number of deer killed, by			
114	sex, in the immediately preceding season <u>Reserved.</u>"			

115 **SECTION 2.**

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