House Bill 1424 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Smith of the 168th, Williams of the 165th, Hatfield of the 177th, Sims of the 169th, Roberts of the 154th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relating to hunting, so as to change certain provisions relating to hunting of deer with dogs, seasons, and permits required; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relating to hunting, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 27-3-17, relating to the hunting of deer with dogs, seasons, and permits required, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"27-3-17.

(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs except during such special open seasons for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be designated by the board on a state-wide, regional, or local basis.

(b) In accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing an open season for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with dogs on any tract of real property unless a permit for hunting deer with dogs has been issued by the department for such tract to the owner or owners of such tract or the lessee of deer hunting rights for such tract. A permit for hunting deer with dogs shall not be issued to a lessee of deer hunting rights for any tract of real property that is less than 1,000 contiguous acres or to the property owner or owners for any tract of real property that is less than 250 contiguous acres. Any application for a permit for hunting deer with dogs shall be on such form as prescribed by the department~~; shall be accompanied by the required application fee;~~ and shall include a written description of the tract boundaries and a map showing key features such as public

roads or streams on or bordering the tract and occupied dwellings on adjacent properties. The application must be signed by all persons owning any portion of the tract of real property or an authorized agent thereof. ~~The application fee for such permit shall be $100.00 for an annual permit or $25.00 for a two-day permit.~~

(d) The owner of any dog that is used for hunting deer must cause such dog to be identified at all times during the hunt with the permit number for the tract being hunted.

(e) Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in ~~the lower corner of the driver´s side of~~ the front or rear windshield of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high.

(f) The department shall thoroughly investigate for validity any complaints from adjacent property owners regarding hunting deer with dogs in violation of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title. The commissioner may take action against a permit as provided by Code Section 27-2-25 for violations of the provisions of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title occurring on the tract of real property for which the permit was issued.

(g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license fee for such deer-dog license shall be $5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman´s license, or lifetime sportsman´s license issued pursuant to this title.

(h) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license for any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property.″

SECTION 2.

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