

House Bill 207 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176th, Roberts of the 155th, Tankersley of the 160th, Williams of the 168th, Nimmer of the 178th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to licenses, permits, and stamps for hunting, trapping, or fishing, so as to authorize
3 a special turkey-hunting season for certain young and mobility impaired hunters; to amend
4 Code Section 27-3-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal weapons
5 for hunting wildlife generally, so as to allow the taking of foxes and bobcats with certain
6 caliber rifles; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 licenses, permits, and stamps for hunting, trapping, or fishing, is amended by adding a new
12 Code section to read as follows:

13 "27-2-4.4.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'mobility impaired person' means any person
15 who has been verified by a doctor of medicine currently licensed to practice by the Georgia
16 Composite Medical Board, the State Board of Examiners in Osteopathy, or an equivalent
17 body of another state to have any one of the following permanent conditions:

18 (1) Dependence upon a wheelchair or similar device for ambulation;

19 (2) Hemiplegia;

20 (3) Monoplegia;

21 (4) Paraplegia; or

22 (5) Single-leg amputation above the knee.

23 (b) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations authorizing the hunting of turkeys
24 during an extended open season to:

25 (1) Any person who is 16 years of age or younger; or

26 (2) Any mobility impaired person.

27 (c) Notwithstanding any provisions of Code Section 27-3-15 to the contrary, such
28 extended season shall be for the weekend prior to the first weekend of the open turkey
29 season, as established by the board.

30 (d) Such special authorization shall be subject to all other provisions of this title."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Code Section 27-3-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal weapons
33 for hunting wildlife generally, is amended by revising paragraph (4) as follows:

34 "(4) Weapons for hunting small game shall be limited to shotguns with shot shell size of
35 no greater than 3 1/2 inches in length with No. 2 lead shot or smaller or federally
36 approved nontoxic shot size of F or smaller shot, .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms,
37 air rifles, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound
38 bows; provided, however, that ~~nothing~~ in addition to the weapons listed in this paragraph,
39 any center-fire firearm of .17 caliber or larger may be used for hunting fox and bobcat.
40 Nothing contained in this paragraph shall permit the taking of protected species;"

41 **SECTION 3.**

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