

The House Committee on Game, Fish and Parks offers the following substitute to HB 988:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-3-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal  
2 weapons for hunting wildlife generally, prohibition of use of silencers and suppressors, and  
3 penalty for violations, so as to provide for regulation of hunting with air guns of not less than  
4 0.30 caliber; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 27-3-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal weapons  
8 for hunting wildlife generally, prohibition of use of silencers and suppressors, and penalty  
9 for violations, is amended by revising paragraphs (8) and (9) of subsection (a) and adding a  
10 new paragraph to said subsection to read as follows:

11 "(8) There are no firearms restrictions for taking nongame animals, nongame birds, or feral  
12 hogs; ~~and~~

13 (9) The use of silencers or suppressors for hunting within this state is prohibited; provided,  
14 however, that a silencer or suppressor may be used for hunting on the private property of  
15 the person using such silencer or suppressor, on private property for which the owner of  
16 such property has provided verifiable permission to the person using such silencer or  
17 suppressor, and on public lands in areas designated by the department; and

18 (10) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'air gun' means any pistol, handgun, or  
19 shoulder-held device of not less than 0.30 caliber that propels a projectile in the form of a  
20 slug, shot, or arrow equipped with a broadhead utilizing unignited compressed air or gas.  
21 Air guns shall be legal weapons for hunting big game and feral hogs only during primitive  
22 weapon hunts, primitive weapon seasons, and firearm seasons. This paragraph shall stand  
23 repealed effective July 1, 2021, unless continued in effect by the General Assembly prior  
24 to that date. At its 2021 regular session, the General Assembly shall review this paragraph  
25 to determine whether it should be continued in effect."

26

**SECTION 2.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.