

No. 269

AN ACT

HB 1483

Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), entitled "An act concerning game and other wild birds and wild animals; and amending, revising, consolidating and changing the law relating thereto," providing a method of establishing seasons and bag limits in any year in which the commission fails to establish such seasons and bag limits.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The second paragraph of section 501, act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), known as "The Game Law," amended July 23, 1965 (P.L.240, No.136), is amended to read:

Section 501. Open Seasons.—* * *

If in any year the commission fails to establish such seasons or bag limits *or fails to establish other hunting regulations under authority of this act*, the open seasons and bag limits for game, Sundays excepted, unless otherwise provided by this act, *and all other hunting regulations adopted under authority of this act*, shall be [as below indicated:

Kind of Game	Open Season
Raccoon	October 15th to December 31st, except as to trapping, which shall be from November 15th to December 31st, where trapping is lawful upon resolution of the commission.
Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, male pheasant, bobwhite quail, gambel quail, valley quail, grackles, commonly known as blackbirds, rabbit, hare, and gray, black, and fox squirrel	November 1st to November 30th.
Hungarian partridge and Chukar partridge	No open season, except as fixed by resolution of the commission.
Red squirrel	November 1st to August 15th next following.
Woodchuck, commonly known as groundhog	July 1st to September 30th next following.
Bear over one year old	November 10th to November 25th.
Male deer, with two or more points to one antler or with one antler three or more inches long .	December 1st to December 15th.

- Antlerless deer** No open season except as fixed by resolution of the commission.
- Elk** No open season except as fixed by resolution of the commission.]

the same as set by resolution of the commission for the previous hunting license year, and all seasons shall open and close one calendar day earlier than the previous hunting license year. In the event the commission fails to establish seasons and bag limits for a hunting license year beginning in a leap year, the seasons shall open and close two calendar days earlier than the previous hunting license year.

* * *

Section 2. Subsection (a) of section 502 of the act, amended May 9, 1961 (P.L.175, No.86), is amended to read:

Section 502. Bag Limits.—(a) It is unlawful for any person to kill or attempt to kill [, or have in possession,] in any one day or in any one season, *or have in possession at any one time*, unless otherwise provided in this act [or by resolution of the commission,] more game birds or game animals than fixed by resolution of the commission. [, or in lieu thereof as hereinafter enumerated:

Kind of Game	In One Day	In One Season
Raccoons (by individual or hunting party, the shooting or trapping day for which is hereby fixed from 12 o'clock noon Eastern Standard Time of one day to 12 o'clock noon of the following day)	3	10
Wild Turkey	1	1
Ruffed Grouse	3	12
Male Pheasants	2	10
Quail of the combined kinds	8	24
Grackles	Unlimited	Unlimited
Rabbits	5	20
Hares	3	12
Squirrels, including the fox, black gray combined	6	20
Red Squirrels	Unlimited	Unlimited
Woodchucks	Unlimited	Unlimited
Bear (by individual or hunting party)	1	1
Deer (by individual)	1	1
Deer (by hunting party)	6	6]

Except as otherwise provided by regulations of the commission and the provisions of subsection (e) of section 501 of this act, every deer

taken shall be a male deer having two or more points to one antler, and every bear taken shall be not less than one year old.

If in any year the commission fails to establish the bag or possession limits for game birds or game animals they shall be the same as those fixed by resolution of the commission for the previous year.

* * *

Section 3. The second paragraph of section 601 of the act, amended June 24, 1939 (P.L.810, No.361), is amended to read:

Section 601. Open Season for Fur-Bearing Animals.—* * *

If in any year the commission fails to establish such seasons, and bag and possession limits, in the manner herein specified, the seasons, [and] bag and possession limits, *and trapping regulations* for fur-bearing animals shall be [as follows:

Kind of Fur-Bearers	Open Season	Bag Limits	
		Day	Season
Mink and Opossum ..	Nov. 15th to Jan. 31st next following	Unlimited	Unlimited
Skunk, in counties where the commission has not removed such animal from the list of fur- bearing animals	Nov. 15th to Jan. 31st next following	Unlimited	Unlimited
Muskrat	Dec. 1st to Jan. 31st next following	Unlimited	Unlimited
Beaver	Jan. 15th to Jan. 31st	3	6
Otter	No open season, except as fixed by resolution of the commission.]		

the same as fixed by resolution of the commission for the previous year, except the seasons shall open and close one calendar day earlier than during the previous hunting and trapping license year. In the event the commission fails to establish the seasons for a hunting and trapping license year beginning in a leap year, the seasons shall open and close two calendar days earlier than the previous hunting and trapping year.

APPROVED—The 10th day of December, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly
No. 269.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.