THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 550

Session of 2007

INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COX, CUTLER, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, MAHONEY, MYERS, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PETRI, PICKETT, PYLE, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, STAIRS, THOMAS, BOYD, ROSS, GIBBONS AND JAMES, MARCH 6, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 6, 2007

AN ACT

- 1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
- 2 Statutes, further providing for killing game or wildlife to
- 3 protect property and for general categories of permits.
- 4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 5 hereby enacts as follows:
- 6 Section 1. Section 2121 of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania
- 7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:
- 8 § 2121. Killing game or wildlife to protect property.
- 9 (a) General rule. -- Subject to any limitations in this
- 10 subchapter, nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit
- 11 any person from killing any game or wildlife:
- 12 (1) which the person may witness actually engaged in the
- 13 material destruction of [cultivated crops, fruit trees,
- vegetables, livestock, poultry or beehives] an agricultural
- 15 <u>commodity</u>;
- 16 (2) anywhere on the property under the person's control,
- 17 including detached lands [being cultivated for the same or

- 1 similar purposes] <u>upon which there exists an agricultural</u>
- 2 <u>commodity</u>, immediately following such destruction; or
- 3 (3) where the presence of the game or wildlife on any
- 4 [cultivated lands or fruit orchards] lands upon which there
- 5 <u>exists an agricultural commodity</u> is just cause for reasonable
- 6 apprehension of additional imminent destruction.
- 7 Lands divided by a public highway shall not be construed as
- 8 detached lands. Any person who wounds any game or wildlife shall
- 9 immediately make a reasonable effort to find and kill the game
- 10 or wildlife. Every person shall comply with all other
- 11 regulations in this subchapter pertaining to the method and
- 12 manner of killing, reporting the killing and the disposition of
- 13 game or wildlife and their skins and carcasses.
- 14 (b) Protected game or wildlife. -- Before any game or
- 15 wildlife, which may be designated by regulation of the
- 16 commission, or any bird or animal classified as threatened or
- 17 endangered may be killed, every reasonable effort shall be made
- 18 to live trap and transfer such game or wildlife. The trapping
- 19 and transfer shall be done in cooperation with a representative
- 20 of the commission.
- 21 [(c) Definition.--As used in this subchapter the word
- 22 "person" shall be limited to any person cultivating, as a
- 23 primary means of gaining a livelihood, any lands for general or
- 24 specialized crop purposes, truck farming or fruit orchard or
- 25 nursery being regularly maintained, as either the owner, lessee
- 26 or a member of the family of the owner or lessee assisting with
- 27 the cultivation of the land, or a domiciled member of the
- 28 household of the owner or lessee or an employee of the owner or
- 29 lessee, regularly and continuously assisting in the cultivation
- 30 of the land.

- 1 (c) Definitions.--As used in this subchapter, the following
- 2 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
- 3 subsection:
- 4 <u>"Agricultural commodity." The term as it is defined under</u>
- 5 section 2 of the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319),
- 6 known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment
- 7 Act of 1974, and which is being produced or prepared for market.
- 8 <u>"Person." An individual who owns, leases from or is employed</u>
- 9 or is contracted by the owner of land upon which there exists an
- 10 <u>agricultural commodity</u>. The term includes a domiciled member of
- 11 the household and a family member of an owner or lessee.
- 12 Section 2. Section 2902 of Title 34 is amended to read:
- 13 § 2902. General categories of permits.
- 14 (a) Federal permits.--Federal permits, which may be further
- 15 restricted by addendum, when countersigned by the director shall
- 16 become valid in this Commonwealth.
- 17 (b) Permits relating to lands.--The director may issue
- 18 permits relating to lands owned by the commission as provided in
- 19 Chapter 7 (relating to property and buildings).
- 20 (c) Other permits. -- The director may issue other permits,
- 21 with or without charge, as required to control the taking of
- 22 game or wildlife for scientific study or any other purpose
- 23 consistent with this title.
- 24 (d) Deer control permits [in cities of the first class].--
- 25 (1) The director shall issue a permit to control deer
- within 30 days of receipt of an application by a [city of the
- 27 first class] local government unit or by any department,
- agency, board or commission of a [city of the first class]
- 29 local government unit or by a common interest community. The
- 30 commission may promulgate regulations to control the

- activities which may be performed under authority of the permit issued under this subsection.
 - (2) A permit for controlling deer issued to a [city of the first class] <u>local government unit</u> or to any department, agency, board or commission of a [city of the first class] <u>local government unit or a common interest community</u> shall not be limited by or subject to any requirement that includes public hunting or controlled hunting by licensed hunters.
 - (3) Activity to control deer or other game or wildlife conducted by a [city of the first class] <u>local government</u> unit or any department, agency, board or commission of a [city of the first class] <u>local government unit or by a common interest community</u> shall not be construed to constitute "hunting" or "take" as defined in section 102 (relating to definitions).
 - (4) A [city of the first class] <u>local government unit</u> or any department, agency, board or commission of a [city of the first class] <u>local government unit or a common interest</u> <u>community</u> that is issued a permit to control deer may conduct deer control activity at any time or times during the term of the permit regardless of season.
- It is unlawful for any person to interfere with or disrupt any activities conducted by a [city of the first class] <u>local government unit</u> or any department, agency, board or commission of a [city of the first class] <u>local government</u> unit or by a common interest community under a permit issued under this section. A violation of this subsection is a summary offense of the second degree. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a [city of the first class] local government unit from enforcing local statutes or from

- seeking damages suffered by such [city] <u>local government unit</u>
- 2 as a result of such interference or disruption.
- 3 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
- 4 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
- 5 <u>subsection</u>:
- 6 "Common interest community." A cooperative, a condominium, a
- 7 planned community or other multiunit/dwelling community where an
- 8 <u>individual by virtue of an ownership or leasehold interest in</u>
- 9 any portion of real estate is or may become obligated by
- 10 covenant, easement or agreement imposed upon the individual's
- 11 <u>interest in real estate to pay any amount for real estate</u>
- 12 property taxes, insurance, maintenance, repair, improvement,
- 13 management, administration or regulation of any part of the real
- 14 estate other than the portion or interest owned solely by the
- 15 <u>individual</u>.
- 16 "Local government unit." Any city, borough, township or town
- 17 or any home rule municipality, optional plan municipality,
- 18 optional charter municipality or similar general purpose unit of
- 19 government which may be created or authorized by statute.
- 20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.