

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1088 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, VOGEL, DUSH, LAUGHLIN, J. WARD AND  
CULVER, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in special licenses and permits, providing for  
3 agriculture access permit list.

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

6 Section 1. Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 2931. Agriculture access permit list.

9 (a) Permit list.--The commission shall create the  
10 agriculture access permit list to connect licensed hunters with  
11 private agricultural landowners for the purpose of crop damage  
12 mediation.

13 (b) Applications.--An individual may submit an application  
14 for placement on the list and a permit under this section in a  
15 form and manner determined by the commission. The commission  
16 shall provide an applicant with the option of applying for  
17 placement on the list and a permit under this section when the  
18 applicant is purchasing the applicant's hunting license. The

1 following shall apply:

2 (1) By selecting the option specified under this  
3 subsection, the applicant shall give the commission the right  
4 to share the information authorized under subsection (d) upon  
5 approval of the application.

6 (2) The applicant may reapply for placement on the list  
7 and a permit under this section based on the criteria under  
8 subsection (c).

9 (c) Criteria.--In order to be eligible for placement on the  
10 list and a permit under this section, an applicant shall meet  
11 all of the following criteria at the time of submission of the  
12 application under subsection (b):

13 (1) Has not committed an offense under this title in the  
14 prior seven years.

15 (2) Be 18 years of age or older.

16 (3) Furnish proof of a valid hunting license and tags  
17 for the game or wildlife that the applicant will be hunting  
18 on the eligible hunting grounds.

19 (d) Retention of records.--The commission shall retain all  
20 of the following:

21 (1) The name of each applicant and corresponding records  
22 containing each applicant's name, telephone number and  
23 municipality.

24 (2) Each application approved under subsection (e).

25 (3) Each application disapproved under subsection (e)  
26 and reasons for the disapproval. Notwithstanding the act of  
27 February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know  
28 Law, or any other provision of law, the commission may not  
29 publicly disclose the reasons for the disapproval of an  
30 application.

1 (e) Notice.--The commission shall, via telephone, first  
2 class mail or email, notify an applicant who has been approved  
3 or disapproved for placement on the list and a permit under this  
4 section.

5 (f) Duration.--The commission shall issue a permit under  
6 this section in accordance with the duration of the license  
7 period under section 2707 (relating to license periods). Upon  
8 the expiration of the license period, the commission shall  
9 remove each permittee from the list.

10 (g) Landowners.--A private agricultural landowner may  
11 request the list from the commission, including each permittee's  
12 name, telephone number, municipality and county preference.

13 (h) Guidelines.--A permittee shall adhere to guidelines  
14 specified by a private agricultural landowner when conducting  
15 hunting activities on the landowner's property if the guidelines  
16 are in accordance with the commission's regulations, including  
17 all of the following:

18 (1) Specific days access is allowed to the property.

19 (2) Specific game species or sex of game species that  
20 are available for harvest.

21 (i) Boundaries.--The boundaries of the premises covered by a  
22 permit under this section as eligible hunting grounds shall be  
23 grounds which are owned by a private agricultural landowner who  
24 entered into an agreement with a permittee to conduct hunting  
25 activities on the landowner's land.

26 (j) Termination of access.--A private agricultural landowner  
27 may terminate an agreement specified under subsection (i) for  
28 any reason at any time if the landlord provides 24 hours' notice  
29 of the termination to a permittee. Upon the private agricultural  
30 landowner providing notice under this subsection, the permittee

1 shall cease hunting activities on the landowner's land.

2 (k) Removal from list.--A permittee shall relinquish the  
3 permittee's placement on the list and permit under this section  
4 if the permittee:

5 (1) commits an offense under this title;

6 (2) fails to comply with guidelines under subsection  
7 (h); or

8 (3) submits a request to the commission to be removed  
9 from the list.

10 (l) Limitations.--The commission shall limit the list for  
11 the purposes specified under this section, including connecting  
12 licensed hunters with private agricultural landowners. The  
13 commission may not share the list in a manner not specified  
14 under this section.

15 (m) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
16 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
17 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Applicant." An individual who submits an application under  
19 subsection (b) for placement on the list and a permit under this  
20 section.

21 "Eligible hunting grounds." Hunting grounds that are located  
22 on any of the following:

23 (1) Privately owned land.

24 (2) Land and water combined where the ground is wholly,  
25 or in part, regularly and continuously engaged in cultivating  
26 the soil for general farm crop purposes, commercial truck  
27 growing, commercial orchards or commercial nurseries.

28 "List." The agriculture access permit list created under  
29 subsection (a).

30 "Permittee." An individual who has been placed on the list

1 and holds a permit under this section.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.