

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 558

Session of  
1981

INTRODUCED BY W. W. FOSTER, TIGUE, MANMILLER, PETRONE, PUNT,  
MERRY, CALTAGIRONE, LETTERMAN, GAMBLE, DIETZ AND SWIFT,  
FEBRUARY 10, 1981

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, FEBRUARY 10, 1981

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), entitled  
2 "An act concerning game and other wild birds and wild  
3 animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing  
4 the law relating thereto," authorizing certain handicapped  
5 persons to use semi-automatic rifles for hunting.

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

8 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 704, act of June 3,  
9 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), known as "The Game Law," amended March  
10 22, 1974 (P.L.201, No.41), is amended to read:

11 Section 704. Unlawful Methods of Hunting.--(a) Unlawful  
12 Methods and Devices. It is unlawful for any person to shoot at  
13 or to shoot for any wild bird or wild animal unless it is  
14 plainly visible to him, or to dig, cut, or smoke or in any other  
15 manner take any live wild bird or wild animal, other than a  
16 predator, out of its den or place of refuge, except that  
17 woodchucks may be dug out of their dens in cultivated fields,  
18 under the conditions stipulated in the preceding section.

19 Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to hunt for,

1 catch, take, kill, or wound, or attempt to catch, take, kill, or  
2 wound any wild bird or wild animal of any kind through the use  
3 of, (a) what is commonly known as an automatic gun or an  
4 automatic firearm of any kind, except that semi-automatic  
5 shotguns may be used for hunting and killing small game, nongame  
6 birds, predators, and unprotected birds; and except that a semi-  
7 automatic shotgun or rifle may be used for hunting and killing  
8 big game by a person having suffered an amputation of one or  
9 both hands if the shotgun has been limited to a three-shell  
10 capacity in magazine and chamber combined by a plug in such a  
11 manner that the plug cannot be removed without disassembling the  
12 gun or if the rifle has been modified or designed to limit the  
13 capacity to three shells in the magazine and chamber combined;  
14 (b) or a magazine shotgun to hunt for any bird or animal, other  
15 than big game, unless it has been limited to three-shell  
16 capacity in magazine and chamber combined by a plug in such a  
17 manner that the plug cannot be removed without disassembling the  
18 gun, or a swivel gun or an air-rifle, or the apparatus known as  
19 a silencer; (c) or from an automobile or vehicle or boat or  
20 craft of any kind, propelled by any mechanical power; (d) or to  
21 set, lay or prepare for use or to use any bait, hay, grain or  
22 other food, or any trap, snare, set-gun, net, bird-lime, deer-  
23 lick, pit-fall, turkey blind or turkey pen; the term "set-gun"  
24 as herein used meaning any contrivance, device, or firearm  
25 capable of discharging, or projecting, a deadly charge or  
26 missile, which is set to operate in the absence of the owner;  
27 (e) or to make use of, or take advantage of, any artificial  
28 light, battery, or other contrivance or device, except that  
29 artificial lights such as are ordinarily carried in the hand or  
30 on the person, may be used for the purpose of taking raccoons,

1 opossums, skunks and foxes; (f) or to make use of any method or  
2 device not specifically permitted by this act, for the purpose  
3 of catching, taking, wounding, or killing wild birds or wild  
4 animals.

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