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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 671 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HANNA, FARINA, McNEILL, D. COSTA, DeLUCA,  
GODSHALL, COHEN, MURT AND GOODMAN, MARCH 2, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 2, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for powers and duties of  
3 commission; and establishing the Antlerless Deer Harvest  
4 Committee.

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

7 Section 1. Section 322(a) and (c)(13) of Title 34 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 322. Powers and duties of commission.

10 (a) Duties.--It shall be the duty of the commission to  
11 protect, propagate, manage and preserve the game or wildlife of  
12 this Commonwealth and to enforce, by proper actions and  
13 proceedings, the laws of this Commonwealth relating thereto. In  
14 fulfilling this duty, the commission shall focus primarily on  
15 servicing the interest of sportsmen and preserving and promoting  
16 this Commonwealth's special heritage of recreational hunting and  
17 furtaking.

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) Specific powers and duties.--In order to administrate

1 and enforce this title, the commission through proper action  
2 shall:

3 \* \* \*

4 (13) Serve the interest of sportsmen by preserving and  
5 promoting [our] this Commonwealth's special heritage of  
6 recreational hunting and furtaking by maximizing the  
7 sustainable harvest of the whitetail deer herd and providing  
8 adequate opportunity to hunt and trap the wildlife resources  
9 of this Commonwealth.

10 Section 2. Title 34 is amended by adding a section to read:  
11 § 2315. Antlerless Deer Harvest Committee.

12 (a) Establishment.--The Antlerless Deer Harvest Committee is  
13 established.

14 (b) Composition.--The committee shall consist of licensed  
15 hunters. One member shall be appointed by each of the following:

16 (1) The Board of Commissioners of the commission.

17 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

18 (3) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

19 (4) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

20 (5) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

21 (c) Restriction.--No member of the commission may be  
22 appointed to the committee.

23 (d) Term.--

24 (1) The member appointed under subsection (b)(1) shall  
25 serve an initial term of four years.

26 (2) The members appointed under subsection (b)(2) and  
27 (5) shall each serve an initial term of three years.

28 (3) The members appointed under subsection (b)(3) and  
29 (4) shall each serve an initial term of two years.

30 (4) Upon expiration of the terms under paragraphs (1),

1 (2) and (3), members shall serve terms of four years.

2 (e) Vacancies.--A vacancy on the committee shall be filled  
3 by the appointing authority for the balance of the term.

4 (f) Chair.--The chair shall be elected annually by a  
5 majority vote of the members of the committee.

6 (g) Duties.--Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to  
7 the contrary, the committee shall determine the total antlerless  
8 deer licenses allocated for each wildlife management unit. In  
9 making the determination, the committee shall do all of the  
10 following:

11 (1) Receive the written allocation recommendations from  
12 the commission under subsection (i).

13 (2) Within 45 days of receipt of the recommendations  
14 under paragraph (1), accept or change the allocation  
15 recommendations for each management unit provided by the  
16 commission by a majority vote of the committee. If the  
17 committee fails to act within 45 days of receipt of the  
18 allocation recommendations, the allocation recommendation for  
19 that management unit shall be deemed to be accepted by the  
20 committee.

21 (h) Expenses.--Members of the committee shall receive no  
22 compensation for their services but shall receive reimbursement  
23 for necessary and proper expenses for attendance at meetings.

24 (i) Duties of commission.--The commission shall:

25 (1) Provide to the committee written allocation  
26 recommendations for antlerless deer license allocations for  
27 each management unit for the upcoming hunting season by April  
28 1 of each year.

29 (2) Provide or produce any data or study requested by  
30 the committee.

1       Section 3. The Antlerless Deer Harvest Committee shall be  
2 established within 30 days of the effective date of this section  
3 and shall determine antlerless deer license allocations  
4 beginning with the 2016 antlerless deer hunting season.

5       Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.