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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2365 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY KULIK, STAATS, OLSOMMER, PASHINSKI, HADDOCK,  
STEELE AND NEILSON, APRIL 7, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, APRIL 8, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for  
3 definitions; in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further  
4 providing for junior hunter projects; in hunting and  
5 furtaking, further providing for prima facie evidence of  
6 hunting and repealing provisions relating to trapping  
7 exception for certain persons; and, in hunting and furtaking  
8 licenses, further providing for license requirements, for  
9 eligibility for license and for unlawful acts concerning  
10 licenses.

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

13 Section 1. Section 102 of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania  
14 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:  
15 § 102. Definitions.

16 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
17 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific  
18 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when  
19 used in this title shall have the meanings given to them in this  
20 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

21 "Accompany." Be within close proximity to another person so  
22 that verbal instructions and guidance can be easily understood

1 without the aid or use of an electronic or sound amplification  
2 device.

3 \* \* \*

4 "Furtaking." Any act or furtherance of the taking or killing  
5 of any furbearer, or any part or product thereof, including, but  
6 not limited to, chasing, tracking, calling, pursuing, lying in  
7 wait, trapping, shooting at, including shooting at a furbearer  
8 facsimile; wounding with any device or implement; using any  
9 personal property, including dogs, or the property of others, of  
10 any nature, in furtherance of any of these purposes; or aiding,  
11 abetting or conspiring with another person in that purpose.

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 2. Sections 327(b)(1) and 2301(b) of Title 34 are  
14 amended to read:

15 § 327. Junior hunter projects.

16 \* \* \*

17 (b) Specific projects.--

18 (1) One of the projects shall consist of at least two  
19 free hunting days for persons qualified to receive a junior  
20 hunting license under section 2705(2) or (9) and who have  
21 successfully completed the hunter education requirements  
22 under section [2704(b)] 2704(b.1) (relating to eligibility  
23 for license). The commission shall establish the days, times  
24 and species which may be taken during the free hunting days.

25 \* \* \*

26 § 2301. Prima facie evidence of hunting.

27 \* \* \*

28 (b) Lawful cooperation or assistance.--Notwithstanding any  
29 other provision of this title to the contrary, any person who  
30 has lawfully taken the bag or season limit for a particular

1 species of game or wildlife [or any person who meets the  
2 requirements of section 2701(c) (relating to license  
3 requirements)] may aid, assist, abet or cooperate in any manner  
4 specified by this title or commission regulations with another  
5 person who is engaged in any lawful activity permitted by this  
6 title or the regulations of the commission.

7 Section 3. Section 2363 of Title 34 is repealed:

8 [§ 2363. Trapping exception for certain persons.

9 Except for section 2704(c) (relating to furtaker's  
10 certificate of training), the remaining provisions of this title  
11 shall not be construed to prevent or prohibit any person under  
12 12 years of age from trapping furbearers. Persons covered by  
13 this section shall not use any firearm other than a .22 caliber  
14 rimfire rifle or sidearm and then only when accompanied by an  
15 adult.]

16 Section 4. Sections 2701, 2704 and 2711 of Title 34 are  
17 amended to read:

18 § 2701. License requirements.

19 (a) General rule.--Except in defense of person or property  
20 or pursuant to exemptions authorized in this title [or by  
21 regulation of the commission for implementing a mentored hunting  
22 program], every person, prior to engaging in any of the  
23 privileges granted by this title, shall first obtain the  
24 applicable license subject to any conditions or other  
25 requirements imposed by this title.

26 (b) Only one license valid.--Only one full-term or distinct  
27 hunting license and furtaking license shall be valid during any  
28 full-term license year. The issuance of any replacement license  
29 or the purchase of a second or subsequent license of any class  
30 shall immediately and automatically invalidate any license and

1 harvest tags of the same kind which had been previously issued.

2 [(c) Exception.--Any person who has never held a hunting  
3 license in Pennsylvania or any other state may participate in  
4 the hunting and trapping activities authorized under this title  
5 or commission regulations without compliance with subsection (a)  
6 or section 2704 (relating to eligibility for license) if that  
7 person satisfies all of the following requirements:

8 (1) The person who participates in the hunting or  
9 trapping activities must always be in sight of and close  
10 enough to a licensed hunter who is at least 18 years of age  
11 to clearly hear and understand instructions communicated to  
12 the person through normal conversation without the aid of any  
13 device. The licensed hunter shall have a valid hunting  
14 license for the game or wildlife they are hunting or qualify  
15 for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 (relating  
16 to resident license and fee exemptions).

17 (2) The unlicensed person may not possess, convey or use  
18 any firearm, bow or any other device that may be used to  
19 harvest game or furbearers.

20 (3) The unlicensed person must be in compliance with  
21 section 2524 (relating to protective material required) and  
22 with any regulations promulgated by the commission related to  
23 protective material.

24 (4) The unlicensed person who participates in any  
25 hunting party shall be listed on any required hunting roster  
26 and shall count as a member of the hunting party for purposes  
27 of section 2324 (relating to roster of parties hunting big  
28 game) and commission regulations relating to big game animal  
29 hunting roster and parties hunting small game.

30 (5) For the purposes of this section, at no time shall a

1 licensed hunter accompany more than one unlicensed person.]

2 § 2704. Eligibility for license.

3 [(a) General rule.--Persons meeting the requirements of this  
4 title who have reached or will reach their 12th birthday in the  
5 calendar year of application or who are older, whose hunting and  
6 furtaking privileges are valid and who shall meet the  
7 application requirements set forth in this title and pay the  
8 prescribed license cost and issuance fee shall be eligible to  
9 obtain the applicable hunting or furtaking license.

10 (b) Hunter education.--Persons who have not held a hunting  
11 license lawfully issued to them in this Commonwealth or another  
12 state or nation or have not hunted under the exceptions in  
13 section 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions)  
14 or do not possess a certificate of training approved by the  
15 director prior to the enactment of this title shall be required  
16 to attain accreditation in a hunter education program approved  
17 by the director before a hunting license is issued to them. The  
18 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a person who  
19 presents:

20 (1) Evidence of service in the armed forces of the  
21 United States or in the United States Coast Guard and  
22 discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six  
23 months of the date of application.

24 (2) Evidence that the person is currently serving in the  
25 armed forces of the United States or in the United States  
26 Coast Guard.

27 (c) Furtaker's certificate of training.--No resident or  
28 nonresident furtaker's license shall be issued to any applicant  
29 unless the applicant presents to the agent authorized to issue  
30 the license any one of the following:

1 (1) Evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or  
2 furtaker's license issued by another state or nation.

3 (2) A certificate of training issued under this section.

4 (3) A certification signed by the applicant on the  
5 furtaker's license application that the applicant completed a  
6 voluntary trapping course sponsored by the commission or that  
7 the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers  
8 within the last five years.

9 The provisions of this section shall not apply to those persons  
10 under 12 years of age who trap furbearers under the direct  
11 supervision of an adult licensed furtaker 18 years of age or  
12 older.]

13 (a.1) General eligibility requirements.--A person shall be  
14 eligible to obtain the applicable hunting and furtaking license  
15 if:

16 (1) the hunting and furtaking privileges of the person  
17 are valid;

18 (2) the person meets the application requirements under  
19 this title and the requirements under applicable regulations  
20 set by the commission; and

21 (3) the person pays the prescribed license cost and  
22 issuance fee.

23 (b.1) Education program requirements.--

24 (1) A person who is 12 years of age or older, or who  
25 will reach 12 years of age within the license year of  
26 application, shall, before a hunting or furtaking license is  
27 issued to the person, attain accreditation in a hunter or  
28 furtaker education program approved by the director.

29 (2) The accreditation requirement under paragraph (1)  
30 does not apply in the following circumstances:

1           (i) The person is participating or has participated  
2 in an apprentice license hunting or furtaking program  
3 established by regulation of the commission. The  
4 following apply:

5           (A) Regarding an apprentice junior hunting or  
6 furtaking license:

7           (I) The license shall be available to a  
8 person who is under 18 years of age at the time  
9 of application and who does not hold a valid  
10 certificate of training in a hunter or furtaker  
11 education program approved by the director.

12           (II) The holder of the license shall comply  
13 with applicable safety standards established  
14 under this title or by regulation of the  
15 commission.

16           (III) The license shall be available to an  
17 eligible youth applicant who is under 12 years of  
18 age for an unrestricted number of years.

19           (IV) The license shall be available to an  
20 eligible youth applicant who is 12 years of age  
21 or older but who is under 18 years of age for up  
22 to a total of three license years. Previous  
23 participation by the applicant in the apprentice  
24 junior hunting or furtaking license program while  
25 under 12 years of age shall reduce the  
26 applicant's eligibility by the applicable number  
27 of years of participation, up to three license  
28 years.

29           (B) Regarding an apprentice adult hunting or  
30 furtaking license:

1                   (I) The license shall be available to a  
2                   person who is 18 years of age or older at the  
3                   time of application and who does not hold a valid  
4                   certificate of training in a hunter or furtaker  
5                   education program approved by the director.

6                   (II) The holder of the license shall comply  
7                   with applicable safety standards established  
8                   under this title or by regulation of the  
9                   commission.

10                   (III) The license shall be available to an  
11                   eligible adult applicant for up to a total of  
12                   three license years. Previous participation by  
13                   the applicant in the apprentice hunting or  
14                   furtaking license program while under 18 years of  
15                   age shall reduce the applicant's eligibility by  
16                   the applicable number of years of participation,  
17                   up to three license years.

18                   (ii) The person presents evidence of current service  
19                   in any branch of the United States Armed Forces as  
20                   defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(4) (relating to  
21                   definitions) or previous service and discharge or  
22                   separation under honorable conditions within six months  
23                   of the date of application.

24                   (iii) The person presents evidence of having held:

25                   (A) a valid certificate of training in a hunter  
26                   or furtaker education program approved by the  
27                   director; or

28                   (B) a valid hunting or furtaking license  
29                   lawfully issued to the person in another state or  
30                   nation.

1 (d) Duties of commission.--

2 (1) The commission shall provide for a course of  
3 instruction, approved by the director, in the safe and  
4 ethical [utilization] use of firearms and traps or other  
5 devices used for taking furbearers. The commission may  
6 cooperate with any reputable association or organization in  
7 presentation of this course.

8 (2) The commission may designate any person who the  
9 commission determines to be competent to give instruction in  
10 the handling of firearms, traps or other devices to act as an  
11 instructor. The appointed person shall give the course of  
12 instruction and shall issue to each person who successfully  
13 completes the course of instruction a certificate of training  
14 in the handling of firearms, traps or other devices. No  
15 charge shall be made for the course of instruction, except as  
16 may be provided by this title or by regulations promulgated  
17 under this title.

18 (3) The commission shall furnish information on the  
19 requirements of the furtaker's education program which shall  
20 be distributed, free of charge, to applicants for furtaker  
21 licenses by the persons appointed and authorized to issue the  
22 licenses.

23 [(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
24 those persons under 12 years of age who trap furbearers under  
25 the direct supervision of an adult licensed furtaker 18 years  
26 of age or older.]

27 (e) Compliance by certification.--The requirements of  
28 subsection [(b) or (c)] (b.1) shall be deemed met by a  
29 certification signed by the applicant on the license application  
30 stating that the applicant has held accreditation in a hunter or

1 furtaker education program approved by the director or a license  
2 issued by the Commonwealth or another state or nation in a prior  
3 year but is unable to produce evidence of holding such license.

4 (f) Courses combined.--Subject to the approval of the  
5 commission, the director may combine the courses of instruction  
6 in hunter education and furtaker's training into one  
7 comprehensive course.

8 (g) Hunter education in public schools.--Upon request of the  
9 commission, all public school districts in this Commonwealth  
10 shall make a school facility under their control available for  
11 the purpose of conducting a hunter education course. Classes may  
12 occur as an after-school or weekend function or any other day  
13 when school is not in session. The commission shall, to the best  
14 of its ability, work with the school to schedule classes for a  
15 time that best suits both the school and the commission. All  
16 classes shall comply with curriculum standards and program  
17 policies established by the director. The commission shall  
18 compensate the school for the actual cost incurred by the school  
19 related to the commission's use of the facility. Fees may not be  
20 charged to the public for the service under this section.

21 § 2711. Unlawful acts concerning licenses.

22 (a) [General rule] Prohibitions.--Except as otherwise  
23 provided in this title, it is unlawful for any person to:

24 (1) Hunt or take any game or wildlife by any means or  
25 manner or device, including the use of dogs, without first  
26 securing and personally signing the required license. [The  
27 required license must be carried on person when hunting,  
28 furtaking or taking any game or wildlife within this  
29 Commonwealth.]

30 (2) Procure a license in a name other than the person's

1 legal name, furnish an address other than his legal place of  
2 residence and domicile or make any false or misleading  
3 statement whatsoever in securing a license.

4 (3) Lend or transfer in any manner whatsoever a license  
5 or game or wildlife kill tag to any other person regardless  
6 of the purpose.

7 (4) Issue, acquire, possess or aid, assist or conspire,  
8 either for that person or any other person, in procuring any  
9 hunting or furtaking license or privilege for which that  
10 person is not legally entitled thereto.

11 (5) Possess while hunting or taking game or wildlife or  
12 going to or from hunting or taking game or wildlife any  
13 report card, license tag, license stamp or game or wildlife  
14 kill tag belonging to another.

15 (6) Except as provided under section 2705 (relating to  
16 classes of licenses), receive a hunting or furtaking license  
17 under any circumstances if under 12 years of age.

18 (7) Receive a hunting or furtaking license without  
19 presenting a written request executed by a parent or legally  
20 constituted guardian if under 17 years of age.

21 [(8) Use firearms of any kind or a bow and arrow for the  
22 purpose of hunting any game or wildlife or attempting to take  
23 or kill any game or wildlife by hunting or trapping if under  
24 12 years of age or when hunting or trapping any game or  
25 wildlife or attempting to hunt or trap any game or wildlife  
26 if between 12 and 14 years of age, unless accompanied by a  
27 parent or a person 18 years of age or older serving in loco  
28 parentis or as guardian or some other family member 18 years  
29 of age or older or when hunting if between 14 and 16 years of  
30 age, unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.

1 For the purpose of this paragraph "accompany" means close  
2 enough that verbal instructions and guidance can be easily  
3 understood. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply  
4 to section 2363 (relating to trapping exception for certain  
5 persons).]

6 (8.1) Hunt or trap game or wildlife while in possession  
7 of a firearm, bow and arrow, raptor, trap or any other device  
8 of any description usable for the purpose of hunting or  
9 taking game or wildlife while unaccompanied, subject to the  
10 following requirements regarding hunting and furtaking and  
11 subsection (d):

12 (i) A person who is 12 years of age or older but  
13 under 16 years of age and who possesses a valid junior  
14 hunting or furtaking license or meets a valid license  
15 exemption under section 2706(a) (relating to resident  
16 license and fee exemptions) shall be accompanied by a  
17 person who is 18 years of age or older, with or without a  
18 hunting or furtaking license.

19 (ii) A person who is 16 years of age or older and  
20 who possesses a valid junior hunting or furtaking license  
21 or meets a valid license exemption under section 2706(a)  
22 is not required to be accompanied.

23 (iii) A person who is 18 years of age or older and  
24 who possesses a valid adult hunting or furtaking license  
25 or meets a valid license exemption under section 2706(a)  
26 is not required to be accompanied.

27 (iv) A person who is 16 years of age or younger and  
28 who possesses a valid apprentice junior hunting or  
29 furtaking license or meets a valid license exemption  
30 under section 2706(a) shall be accompanied by a person

1 who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses a valid  
2 hunting or furtaking license.

3 (v) A person who is 18 years of age or older and who  
4 possesses a valid apprentice adult hunting or furtaking  
5 license or meets a valid license exemption under section  
6 2706(a) shall be accompanied by a person who is 21 years  
7 of age or older and who possesses a valid hunting or  
8 furtaking license.

9 (vi) A person who is not described in subparagraph  
10 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) shall be accompanied by a  
11 person who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses  
12 an adult hunting or furtaking license.

13 (10) Hunt or take, or aid, assist or attempt to hunt or  
14 take, furbearers or take any game or wildlife anywhere in  
15 this Commonwealth, either with or without a license, or make  
16 application, receive or attempt or conspire to receive any  
17 license required by this chapter, during any period that  
18 these privileges have been denied or withdrawn by this title,  
19 by the director or by a magisterial district judge or court  
20 of competent jurisdiction.

21 (11) Conspire to or duplicate, reproduce, alter, forge  
22 or counterfeit any permit, license, tag or stamp required by  
23 this title.

24 (12) While exercising any of the privileges granted by  
25 any license provided for in this title, refuse or fail to  
26 satisfactorily provide positive identification or proof of  
27 license to any landowner upon whose land that person may be  
28 occupying or to any officer whose duty it is to enforce this  
29 title.

30 (13) Violate any regulations promulgated under the

1 authority of this subchapter.

2 [(a.1) Exemption.--For the sole purpose of implementing and  
3 enhancing a mentored hunting program within this Commonwealth,  
4 the commission may establish regulations exempting certain  
5 limited hunting activities from the prohibitions specified in  
6 subsection (a)(1), (3), (5) and (8). Such exemption shall  
7 include a provision limiting a mentored person participating in  
8 a mentored hunting program to the receipt of no more than one  
9 antlerless deer license in each license year. A person 17 years  
10 of age or older may participate in a mentored hunting program as  
11 a mentored hunter in no more than three licensing years.]

12 (b) Penalties.--A violation of this subchapter relating to:

13 (1) Subsection (a)(1) insofar as it relates to hunting  
14 or furtaking without a valid license or licenses required is  
15 a summary offense of the third degree.

16 [(2) Subsection (a)(1) insofar as it relates to signing  
17 a license is a summary offense of the eighth degree.]

18 (3) Subsection (a)(1) insofar as it relates to signing a  
19 license, (a)(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8.1) or (12) is a  
20 summary offense of the fifth degree.

21 [(4) Subsection (a)(6), (7) or (8) is a summary offense  
22 of the seventh degree.]

23 (5) Subsection (a)(10) or (11) is a summary offense of  
24 the first degree and [may] shall result in forfeiture of the  
25 privilege to hunt or take game or wildlife anywhere within  
26 this Commonwealth for a period of five years.

27 (6) Any of the other provisions of this subchapter or  
28 the regulations promulgated thereunder is a summary offense  
29 of the fifth degree.

30 (c) Separate offenses.--Each day of violation or each

1 illegal act constitutes a separate offense.

2 (d) Accompaniment.--

3 (1) For the purposes of subsection (a) (8.1) (i), (v) and  
4 (vi), to accompany means that the accompanied person is  
5 within close proximity to another person so that verbal  
6 instructions and guidance can be easily understood without  
7 the aid or use of an electronic or sound amplification  
8 device.

9 (2) For the purposes of subsection (a) (8.1) (iv), to  
10 accompany means that the accompanied person is, at all times,  
11 within arm's reach and subject to the immediate control of  
12 the person providing accompaniment while the accompanied  
13 person is in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, raptor,  
14 trap or any other device of any description usable for the  
15 purpose of hunting or taking game or wildlife.

16 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.