

House Bill 950

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176th, Corbett of the 174th, Watson of the 172nd, Nimmer of the 178th, and Williams of the 168th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hunting seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by board, possession of more than the bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed; to modify seasons and bag limits for deer, opossum, and racoon; to remove formal report requirement; to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to implement a deer management assistance program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hunting seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by board, possession of more than the bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed, is amended by revising subsections (a), (b), and (g), as follows:

"(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the periods set forth below:

<u>Game Species</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
(1) Quail	March 16 — Oct. 31
(2) Grouse	March 1 — Oct. 14
(3) Turkey	
(A) Gobblers	May 22 — March 14
(B) Hens	All year

- 21

(4) Deer

Jan. 16 — Sept. 7; except that the closed season may be Feb. 1 - Sept. 7 in those counties specified as having an extended archery-only open season in paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section Feb. 1 — Sept. 7
- 28

(5) Bobcat

March 1 — Oct. 14
- 29

(6) Opossum

March 1 — Oct. 14; for that area north of and including Haralson, Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties
- 36

(7) Rabbit

March 1 — Oct. 31
- 37

(8) Raccoon

March 1 — Oct. 14; for that area north of and including Carroll, Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties
- 42

(9) Squirrel

March 1 — August 14
- 43

(10) Bear

Jan. 16 — Sept. 7
- 44

(11) Sea turtles and their eggs

All year
- 45

(12) Cougar (Felis concolor)

All year
- 46

(13) Alligators

Nov. 1 — March 31
- 47

(14) Migratory game birds

March 11 — August 31

(b) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the period set forth below, except that it shall not be unlawful to hunt the following game species during such periods or portions thereof, and in such number not to exceed the following numbers, as may be designated by the board as open seasons and bag limits for such species:

<u>Game Species</u>	<u>Maximum Open Season</u>	<u>Maximum Bag Limits</u>	
		<u>Daily</u>	<u>Season</u>
(1) Quail	Nov. 1 — March 15	12	No limit

56	(2) Grouse	Oct. 15 — Feb. 29	3	No limit
57	(3) Turkey	March 15 — May 21	3	3
58	gobblers			
59	(4) Deer	Sept. 8 — Jan. 15 <u>Jan. 31</u> ; except that	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
60		there may be also an extended		
61		archery-only open season Jan. 1 — Jan. 31		
62		in the counties of Clayton, Cobb,		
63		DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and		
64		Rockdale due to the extra need for herd		
65		reduction in that urban and suburban area		
66		of the state		
67			The daily limit shall be	
68			ten antlerless deer and	
69			two antlered bucks. The	
70			season limit shall be ten	
71			antlerless deer and two	
72			antlered bucks.	
73			Only one antlered buck	
74			may have less than four	
75			points one inch or	
76			longer on one side of	
77			the antlers.	
78			Up to two deer per	
79			managed hunt may be	
80			allowed on wildlife	
81			management areas	
82			without complying with	
83			the state-wide bag limit.	
84	(5) Bobcat	Oct. 15 — Feb. 29	No limit	No limit
85	(6) Opossum	(A) Oct. 15 — Feb. 29; for that area	No limit	No limit
86		north of and including Haralson,		
87		Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Forsyth,		
88		Hall, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties;		
89		and		
90		(B) Jan. 1 — Dec. 31 for the	No limit	No limit
91		remainder of the state		

