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

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

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

- 9 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),
- 12 and (g), as follows:
- 13 "(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the periods

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set forth below:

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

21	(4) Deer	Jan. 16 — Sept. 7; except that the	
22		closed season may be Feb. 1 - Sept.	
23		7 in those counties specified as	
24		having an extended archery-only	
25		open season in paragraph (4) of	
26		subsection (b) of this Code section	
27		<u>Feb. 1 — Sept. 7</u>	
28	(5) Bobcat	March 1 — Oct. 14	
29	(6) Opossum	March 1 — Oct. 14 , for that area	
30		north of and including Haralson,	
31		Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee,	
32		Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and	
33		Hart counties	
34			
35			
36	(7) Rabbit	March 1 — Oct. 31	
37	(8) Raccoon	March 1 — Oct. 14 , for that area	
38		north of and including Carroll,	
39		Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke,	
40		Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and	
41		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	
48	(b) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following gas	me species at any time during the period	
49	set forth below, except that it shall not be unlawful to hunt the following game species		
50	during such periods or portions thereof, and in s	uch number not to exceed the following	

numbers, as may be designated by the board as open seasons and bag limits for such species:

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

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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 li	mit shall be
68			ten antlerle	ss deer and
69			two antlered	bucks. The
70			season limit	shall be ten
71			antlerless de	eer and two
72			antlered bud	cks.
73			Only one ar	tlered buck
74			may have le	ss than four
75			points one	e inch or
76			longer on o	one side of
77			the antlers.	
78			Up to two	deer per
79			managed h	unt may be
80			allowed o	n wildlife
81			manageme	ent areas
82			without con	plying with
83			the state-wio	de bag limit <u>.</u>
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		

92	(7) Rabbit	Nov. 1 — Feb. 29	12	No limit
93	(8) Raccoon	(A) Oct. 15 — Feb. 29, for that area	No limit	No limit
94		north of and including Carroll, Fulton,		
95		Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke, Oglethorpe,		
96		Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties;		
97		and		
98		(B) Jan. 1 — Dec. 31 for the	No limit	No limit
99		remainder of the state		
100	(9) Squirrel	Aug. 15 — Feb. 29	12	No limit
101	(10) Fox	Jan. 1 — Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
102	(11) Migratory	Sept. 1 — March 10	Subject to	limits set
103	game		by the	federal
104	birds		governm	ent and
105			adopted by	the board
106	(12) Bear	Sept. 8 — Jan. 15	2	2
107	(13) Alligators	April 1 — Oct. 31	Subject to	limits
108			adopted by	the board"
109	"(g) (1) The depar	tment shall report to the General Assembly	on or before	the fifth day
110	of February of eac	ch year the estimated number of deer killed, b	y sex, in the	immediately
111	preceding season.			
112	(2) Upon comple	etion of its annual analysis of data from the	e immediate	ly preceding
113	season, the department shall report to the General Assembly on the same day that it			
114	reports to the Board of Natural Resources each year the actual number of deer killed, by			
115	sex, in the immediately preceding season. In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code			
116	section and as mag	y be appropriate, based on sound wildlife ma	ınagement pı	rinciples, the
117	department is authorized to develop a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP),			
118	which may include applicable fees, and may prescribe property-specific deer harvests			
119	without complying with the state-wide bag limit as part of such program."			

SECTION 2. 120

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed. 121