SPONSOR: Sen. Simpson & Rep. Outten
Sens. Ennis, Hocker, Lawson; Reps. Carson, Collins, Kenton, Mitchell, Paradee, D. Short, Spiegelman, Wilson, Yearick

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 31

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO A CERTAIN USE OF A HANDGUN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1   Section 1. Amend § 704(g), Title 7 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strikethrough and

2   insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3   (g) Except as set forth herein, no person may use a handgun in the pursuit, taking or attempted taking (hunting) of

4   protected wildlife. A handgun as described herein may be used for the pursuit, taking and attempted taking (hunting) of

5   deer on privately owned lands situated south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and those lands within the State owned

6   by the State of Delaware so designated for this purpose by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

7   and farms permitted by the Department through its deer depredation programs, at its discretion, under the following

8   conditions:

9   (1) The handgun shall be limited to revolvers and single shot pistols with a minimum barrel length of 5.75

10   inches and not exceeding 12.5 inches and chambered for and using straight-wall handgun ammunition in .357 magnum,

11   .41 caliber, .41 magnum, .44 caliber, 44 magnum, .45 caliber, .454 caliber, .480 caliber or .50 caliber and using open

12   sights, metallic/mechanical, optical or telescopic sights;

13   (2) The handgun must be carried openly on a sling or in a holster and not concealed;

14   (3) To be used:

15   a. During a separate 7-day season to begin on the first Saturday in January through the second Saturday in

16   January; and

17   b. In place of a shotgun during the shotgun deer season.

SYNOPSIS

This bill allows a hunter to use a handgun in lieu of a shotgun on farms permitted by DNREC through their Deer depredation programs to reduce agricultural crop damage.

Author: Senator Simpson