

481A.48 Restrictions on game birds and animals.

1. A person, except as otherwise provided by law, shall not willfully disturb, pursue, shoot, kill, take or attempt to take, or have in possession any of the following game birds or animals except within the open season established by the commission: gray or fox squirrel, bobwhite quail, cottontail or jackrabbit, duck, snipe, pheasant, goose, woodcock, partridge, mourning dove, coot, rail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, pigeon, or deer. The seasons, bag limits, possession limits, and locality shall be established by the department or commission under the authority of [sections 456A.24, 481A.38, and 481A.39](#).

2. The commission may adopt rules for the taking and possession of migratory birds which are subject to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Migratory Bird Stamp Hunting Act during the time and in the manner permitted under those federal Acts. The commission shall not adopt a rule for the taking or possession of a migratory bird for which an open season is not authorized by another paragraph of [this section](#).

3. The commission may by rule permit the taking and possession of designated raptors and crows during the time and in the manner permitted under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

4. The commission shall establish methods by which pigeons may be taken which may include but are not limited to the use of trapping, chemical repellants, or toxic perches.

5. The commission shall establish one or more pistol or revolver seasons for hunting deer as separate firearm seasons or to coincide with one or more other firearm deer hunting seasons. Any pistol or revolver firing a magnum three hundred fifty-seven thousandths of one inch caliber or larger, centerfire, straight wall ammunition propelling an expanding-type bullet is legal for hunting deer during the pistol or revolver seasons. The commission shall adopt rules to allow black powder pistols or revolvers for hunting deer. The rules shall not allow pistols or revolvers with shoulder stock or long-barrel modifications. The barrel length of a pistol or revolver used for deer hunting shall be at least four inches. The rules may limit types of ammunition. A person who is sixteen years of age or less shall not hunt deer with a pistol or revolver. A person possessing a prohibited pistol or revolver while hunting deer commits a scheduled violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 3](#), paragraph "h", subparagraph (5).

6. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) allowing the use of straight wall cartridge rifles to hunt deer as follows:

a. A straight wall cartridge rifle may be used to hunt deer during youth and disabled deer hunting season and first and second shotgun deer hunting seasons by a person who has a valid deer hunting license and is otherwise qualified to hunt.

b. A straight wall cartridge rifle that is allowed pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall be of the same caliber and use the same straight wall ammunition as is allowed for use in a pistol or revolver for hunting deer as provided in [subsection 5](#). In addition, the commission shall provide, by rule, for the use of straight wall ammunition under [this subsection](#) that meets ballistics specifications similar to the requirements for straight wall ammunition allowed for use in a pistol or revolver for hunting deer as provided in [subsection 5](#).

c. A person possessing a prohibited rifle while hunting deer commits a scheduled violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 3](#), paragraph "h", subparagraph (6). In addition, the hunting privileges of a person convicted of possessing a prohibited rifle while hunting deer shall be suspended for two years.

[R60, §4381; C73, §4048; C97, §2551, 2552; S13, §2563-q; SS15, §2551, 2552, 2563-u; C24, §1767, 1768, 1776; C27, 31, §1767, 1767-a1, 1768, 1776; C39, §1794.011; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §109.48]

[86 Acts, ch 1133, §2, 3](#)

[C93, §481A.48](#)

[97 Acts, ch 141, §1](#); [2001 Acts, ch 137, §5](#); [2011 Acts, ch 3, §1](#); [2017 Acts, ch 68, §1](#)

Referred to in [§170.8, §481A.38, §805.8B\(3\)\(h\)](#)

For applicable scheduled fines, see [§805.8B, subsection 3, paragraph h](#)

NEW subsection 6