

House File 716 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 716

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 179)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to firearms requirements for hunting deer.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 455A.5, Code 2019, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. For purposes of adopting rules, the
4 commission shall define and categorize firearms in a manner
5 fully consistent with the definitions established in 18 U.S.C.
6 §921 and 27 C.F.R. §478.11.

7 Sec. 2. Section 481A.48, subsections 5 and 6, Code 2019, are
8 amended to read as follows:

9 5. The commission shall establish one or more pistol
10 or revolver seasons for hunting deer as separate firearm
11 seasons or to coincide with one or more other firearm deer
12 hunting seasons. Any pistol or revolver ~~firing a magnum~~
13 ~~three hundred fifty-seven thousandths of one inch caliber or~~
14 ~~larger, centerfire, straight wall ammunition propelling an~~
15 ~~expanding-type bullet with a barrel length of at least four~~
16 inches and firing straight wall or other centerfire ammunition
17 propelling an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of
18 no less than three hundred fifty thousandths of one inch and
19 no larger than five hundred thousandths of one inch and with
20 a published or calculated muzzle energy of five hundred foot
21 pounds or higher is legal for hunting deer during the pistol or
22 revolver seasons. The commission shall adopt rules to allow
23 black powder pistols or revolvers for hunting deer. ~~The rules~~
24 ~~shall not allow pistols or revolvers with shoulder stock or~~
25 ~~long-barrel modifications. The barrel length of a pistol or~~
26 ~~revolver used for deer hunting shall be at least four inches.~~
27 The rules may limit types of ammunition projectiles. A person
28 who is ~~sixteen~~ twenty years of age or less shall not hunt deer
29 with a pistol or revolver unless that person is accompanied and
30 under direct supervision throughout the hunt by a responsible
31 person with a valid hunting license who is at least twenty-one
32 years of age, with the consent of a parent, guardian, or spouse
33 who is at least twenty-one years of age, pursuant to section
34 724.22, subsection 5. A person possessing a prohibited pistol
35 or revolver while hunting deer commits a scheduled violation

1 under [section 805.8B, subsection 3](#), paragraph "h", subparagraph
2 (5).

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

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

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

20 c. A person possessing a prohibited rifle while hunting deer
21 commits a scheduled violation under section 805.8B, subsection
22 3, paragraph "h", subparagraph (6). In addition, the hunting
23 privileges of a person convicted of possessing a prohibited
24 rifle while hunting deer shall be suspended for two years.

25

EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 Current law requires the natural resource commission to
29 establish rules that prohibit the use of pistols and revolvers
30 with shoulder stock or long-barrel modifications when hunting
31 deer. Current law also prohibits a person under the age of 16
32 from hunting deer with a pistol or revolver.

33 This bill requires the commission to define and categorize
34 firearms to be consistent with federal definitions, and
35 modifies current provisions to reflect consistency with federal

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1 definitions. The bill also allows a person 20 years of age or
2 less to hunt using a pistol or revolver if the person is under
3 direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years of age
4 with a valid hunting license, and has consent from a parent,
5 guardian, or spouse who is at least 21 years of age.