

ADOPTED

Senators Heath of the 31st, Harper of the 7th, Mullis of the 53rd, Tolleson of the 20th, Shafer of the 48th and Jeffares of the 17th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the House floor amendment (AM 41 0040) to HB 60 by inserting after "8-3-202," on*
 2 *line 3 "Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27,"; by inserting after "exceptions," on line 6*
 3 *"general provisions regarding hunting,"; by inserting after "title;" on line 11 "to authorize*
 4 *hunting using a firearm silencer or suppressor under certain circumstances; to provide for*
 5 *penalties for improper use;".*

6 *By inserting after line 54 the following:*

SECTION 1-2A.

7
 8 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 9 relating to general provisions regarding hunting, is amended by revising Code
 10 Section 27-3-4, relating to legal weapons for hunting wildlife generally, as follows:

11 "27-3-4.

12 (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt wildlife with any weapon, except that:

13 (1) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows may be used for taking
 14 small game, feral hogs, or big game. Arrows for hunting deer, bear, and feral hogs must
 15 be broadhead type;

16 (2) During primitive weapon hunts or primitive weapons seasons:

17 (A) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, compound bows, muzzleloading firearms of
 18 .44 caliber or larger, and muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger loaded with
 19 single shot may be used; and

20 (B) Youth under 16 years of age may hunt deer with any firearm legal for hunting deer;

21 (3) Firearms for hunting deer, bear, and feral hogs are limited to 20 gauge shotguns or
 22 larger shotguns loaded with slugs or buckshot (except that no buckshot is permitted on
 23 state wildlife management areas unless otherwise specified), muzzleloading firearms of
 24 .44 caliber or larger, and center-fire firearms .22 caliber or larger; provided, however, that
 25 firearms for hunting feral hogs, other than those weapons specified in this paragraph, may
 26 be authorized by rule or regulation of the board. Bullets used in all center-fire rifles and
 27 handguns must be of the expanding type;

28 (4) Weapons for hunting small game shall be limited to shotguns with shot shell size of
 29 no greater than 3 1/2 inches in length with No. 2 lead shot or smaller or federally
 30 approved nontoxic shot size of F or smaller shot, .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms,

31 air rifles, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound
32 bows; provided, however, that in addition to the weapons listed in this paragraph, any
33 center-fire firearm of .17 caliber or larger may be used for hunting fox and bobcat.
34 Nothing contained in this paragraph shall permit the taking of protected species;

35 (5)(A) For hunting deer, feral hogs, and bear, shotguns shall be limited to a capacity
36 of not more than five shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is
37 necessary to so limit the capacity, the plug shall be of one piece, incapable of being
38 removed through the loading end of the magazine.

39 (B) For hunting all other game animals, shotguns shall be limited to a capacity of not
40 more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is necessary
41 to so limit the capacity, the plug shall be of one piece, incapable of being removed
42 through the loading end of the magazine;

43 (6) It shall be unlawful to hunt turkey with any weapons except shotguns using No. 2
44 shot or smaller, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, crossbows, recurve bows, or
45 compound bows. Any person taking turkey in violation of this paragraph shall be guilty
46 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor,
47 except that a fine imposed for such violation shall not be less than \$250.00;

48 (7) Weapons for hunting alligators shall be limited to hand-held ropes or snares, snatch
49 hooks, harpoons, gigs, or arrows with restraining lines attached. Lawfully restrained
50 alligators may be killed with any caliber handgun or bangstick and shall be killed
51 immediately before transporting;

52 (8) There are no firearms restrictions for taking nongame animals or nongame birds; and

53 (9) The use of silencers or suppressors for hunting within this state is prohibited;
54 provided, however, that a silencer or suppressor may be used for hunting on the private
55 property of the person using such silencer or suppressor, on private property for which
56 the owner of such property has provided verifiable permission to the person using such
57 silencer or suppressor, and on public lands in areas designated by the department.

58 (b)(1) It shall be illegal to use a silencer or suppressor for hunting in violation of
59 paragraph (9) of subsection (a) of this Code section. A person who violates the
60 provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

61 (2) The hunting privileges of any person who has been convicted of violating the
62 provisions of this title or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto by hunting
63 without landowner permission, hunting in an area that is closed for hunting, or hunting
64 big game out of season or at night with a firearm equipped with a suppressor shall be
65 suspended for three years."