

House Bill 949

By: Representatives Gregory of the 34th, Spencer of the 180th, Stover of the 71st, and Caldwell of the 20th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding hunting, so as to authorize the use of
3 suppressors on hunting firearms; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

9 "27-3-4.

10 It shall be unlawful to hunt wildlife with any weapon, except that:

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

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

15 (A) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, compound bows, muzzleloading firearms of
16 .44 caliber or larger, and muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger loaded with
17 single shot may be used; and

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

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

26 (4) Weapons for hunting small game shall be limited to shotguns with shot shell size of
27 no greater than 3 1/2 inches in length with No. 2 lead shot or smaller or federally
28 approved nontoxic shot size of F or smaller shot, .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms,
29 air rifles, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound
30 bows; provided, however, that in addition to the weapons listed in this paragraph, any
31 center-fire firearm of .17 caliber or larger may be used for hunting fox and bobcat.
32 Nothing contained in this paragraph shall permit the taking of protected species;

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

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

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

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

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

51 ~~(9) The use of silencers for hunting within this state is prohibited."~~

52 SECTION 2

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