House Bill 186

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176th, Carter of the 175th, Powell of the 171st, Watson of the 172nd, Corbett of the 174th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by the board, possession of more than bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed, so as to change certain provisions relating to open seasons for the hunting of deer; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to seasons and bag limits, promulgation of rules and regulations by the board, possession of more than bag limit, and reporting number of deer killed, is amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

″(4) Deer	~~Jan. 16~~ Feb. 1 — Sept. 7~~; except that the closed season may be Feb. 1 - Sept. 7 in those counties specified as having an extended archery-only open season in paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section~~″

SECTION 2.

Said Code section is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (b) as follows:

″(4) Deer	Sept. 8 — ~~Jan. 15~~ Jan. 31; except that ~~there may be also an extended archery-only open season Jan. 1– Jan. 31 in the counties of Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale due to the extra need for herd reduction in that urban and suburban area of the state~~ the season for hunting deer with firearms shall close on the third Monday in January; deer may be taken with archery equipment through Jan. 31	The daily limit shall be ten antlerless deer and two antlered bucks. The season limit shall be ten antlerless deer and two antlered bucks. Only one antlered buck may have less than four points one inch or longer on one side of the antlers. Up to two deer per managed hunt may be allowed on wildlife management areas without complying with the state-wide bag limit″

SECTION 3.

Said Code section is further amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:

″(c) In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section and as may be appropriate, based on sound wildlife management principles, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing open seasons on a state-wide, regional, or local basis and establishing daily and season bag limits; provided, however, that the closing date of the open season for hunting deer with firearms shall be uniform statewide.″

SECTION 4.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 5.

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