

2019 -- H 5849

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LC002165
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - FIELD TRIALS AND SHOOTING PRESERVES

Introduced By: Representative Stephen R. Ucci

Date Introduced: March 14, 2019

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 20-19 of the General Laws entitled "Field Trials and Shooting
2 Preserves" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **20-19-2.1. Shooting preserves - Five hundred acres and greater.**

4 (a) No person shall operate a shooting preserve for the purpose of taking deer, elk or
5 other animals allowed by rule or regulation unless a license has been obtained from the director.

6 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions and licensing requirements set forth in § 20-19-2, a
7 shooting preserve set on a body of land greater than five hundred (500) acres in size may apply to
8 the director for a license that also allows for the release and taking of animals other than domestic
9 game birds.

10 (b) The director shall promulgate all rules, regulations and fee structures necessary to
11 effect the purpose of this section, including, but not limited to:

12 (1) Ensuring the shooting area is a single body of land not less than five hundred (500)
13 acres in size, and is accurately described in the application;

14 (2) Determining what animals, in addition to elk and deer, may be released upon the
15 shooting preserve for the purpose of taking;

16 (3) Determining the minimal acreage necessary for the release of animals in addition to
17 elk and deer; and

18 (4) The type of records that must be maintained by the shooting preserve, including, but
19 not limited to:

- 1 (i) The types of animals:
- 2 (A) How they were acquired;
- 3 (B) Where they were acquired;
- 4 (C) A unique identification number and matching tag attached to the animal before
5 release;
- 6 (D) A certified veterinarian report attesting to the health of the animal and the belief that
7 the release of the animal would not damage the state's ecology;
- 8 (E) When the animal was released on the shooting preserve; and
- 9 (F) The number of animals released.
- 10 (ii) A list of the names of individuals who have been granted permission to hunt on the
11 shooting preserve;
- 12 (iii) A copy of a valid Rhode Island hunting license or specialty license for the taking of
13 game on a shooting preserve only for each individual granted permission to hunt on the shooting
14 preserve;
- 15 (iv) Information pertaining to the taking of any game bird under § 20-19-2 or other
16 animal under this section, including, but not limited to, the type of game bird or animal, the
17 number of game birds or animals taken, the unique identification number issued by the preserve,
18 and the number of the band issued by the department and attached to the wild bird or animal upon
19 taking;
- 20 (v) The requirement that animals taken on a shooting preserve, pursuant to this section,
21 may be possessed and transported in any number but only when bearing the prescribed band
22 furnished by the department for a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in addition to its cost of
23 manufacture or purchase.
- 24 (c) In determining whether a license shall be granted under this section, the director shall
25 balance the state's interest in maintaining its ecology and open spaces with interests of the owners
26 of the shooting preserves and their desire to utilize their property as they see fit and the many
27 Rhode Islanders who find hunting to be an enjoyable pastime, without giving greater weight to
28 the opposition of abutters or opinions of those individuals or organizations who are opposed to
29 hunting on moral or other grounds.

30 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would authorize shooting preserves of five hundred (500) acres or greater to
2 allow hunting deer, elk, or other animals in addition to domestic game birds as regulated by the
3 department of environmental management.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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