

SENATE, No. 4707

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator LATHAM TIVER
District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Allows deer depredation permit holders to harvest antlers, venison, and hide from deer.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning deer depredation permits and harvesting of deer
2 and amending R.S.23:4-42.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.23:4-42 is amended to read as follows:

8 23:4-42. a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section,
9 no person shall hunt for, pursue, shoot at, take, kill, wound or
10 attempt to take, kill or wound a deer of any description prohibited
11 by the provisions of the State Fish and Game Code, or hunt for,
12 pursue, shoot at, take, kill, wound or attempt to take, kill or wound
13 any wild deer at any time except during the period permitted by the
14 State Fish and Game Code, or kill in any one year more than the
15 number of deer permitted by the State Fish and Game Code.

16 b. The owner or lessee of any land, a portion of which is under
17 cultivation, or the authorized agents of the owner or lessee having
18 on their person a written permit issued by the division and
19 countersigned by the owner or lessee may kill any deer that may be
20 found on that land during the period covered by the permit. If
21 requested by the owner or lessee of the land, the period covered by
22 the permit issued to the owner or lessee, or authorized agent
23 thereof, shall also include the entire months of February and March.
24 The owner or lessee of the land, or authorized agent thereof, may
25 harvest antlers, venison, and hides from deer taken pursuant to the
26 permit. If an owner or lessee of the land, or authorized agent
27 thereof, does not harvest a deer hunted pursuant to the permit the
28 carcass of a deer killed under such permit shall become the property
29 of the division and may be removed and disposed of in the manner
30 it directs. For the purpose of this section, "land under cultivation"
31 shall mean (1) pasture fields that are seeded with cultivated grass or
32 that have been so seeded within the prior 12 months, or (2) land on
33 which planted crops are growing or were growing within the prior
34 12 months. The division may require the owner or lessee of the
35 land to provide evidence of deer damage within the prior 12 months
36 as a condition of issuing a permit pursuant to this subsection.
37 (cf: P.L.1999, c.327, s.1)

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill allows for the owner or lessee of any land under
45 cultivation, or the authorized agents of the owner or lessee, to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 harvest antlers, hides, and venison from deer hunted pursuant to a
2 deer depredation permit. This legislation aims to encourage greater
3 hunter participation with owners or lessees of land under cultivation
4 that possess deer depredation permits. Through participation, the
5 bill aims to eliminate the waste of deer carcasses decaying on
6 properties and to help New Jersey farmers mitigate ongoing annual
7 crop damage caused by deer.