



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7194

January Session, 2025



AN ACT CONCERNING SELF-DEFENSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-203 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Any person who intentionally, negligently or carelessly
4 discharges any firearm in such a manner as to be likely to cause bodily
5 injury or death to persons or domestic animals, or the wanton
6 destruction of property, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

7 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not be
8 construed to prohibit the intentional discharge of a firearm for the
9 purpose of lawful self-defense or lawful defense of another person.

10 Sec. 2. Section 26-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

12 The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the
13 provisions of chapter 54 governing the taking of wildlife, provided any
14 regulations concerning the taking of migratory game birds shall be
15 consistent with section 26-91. The regulations may: (1) Establish the
16 open and closed seasons, which may be modified by decreasing or
17 increasing the number of days for any specific species, (2) establish

18 hours, days or periods during the open season when hunting shall not
19 be permitted for specific species, (3) establish legal hours, (4) prescribe
20 the legal methods, including type, kind, gauge and caliber of weapons
21 and ammunition, including long bow, (5) prescribe the sex of wildlife
22 that may be taken on a state-wide or local area basis, (6) establish the
23 daily bag limit and the season bag limit, (7) establish the maximum
24 number of persons that may hunt on designated areas during any
25 twenty-four-hour period, (8) require that a permit be obtained from the
26 landowner or such landowner's agent, or the commissioner or such
27 commissioner's agent, to enter upon designated premises or areas for
28 the purpose of hunting, and further require that such permit be returned
29 within a specified time to the issuing authority with an accurate report
30 of all wildlife taken under such permit, the time spent on the premises
31 or area and any other data required by the commissioner for
32 management purposes, (9) establish areas that shall be restricted for
33 designated periods for hunting only with long bow or other specified
34 weapons, (10) establish areas that shall be restricted for designated
35 periods for hunting exclusively by persons with physical disabilities,
36 (11) establish requirements and procedures for tagging and reporting
37 birds or animals taken by hunting or trapping, [;] and (12) provided no
38 regulation or order prohibits or may be construed to prohibit the
39 intentional discharge of a firearm for the purpose of lawful self-defense
40 or lawful defense of another person, in the interest of public safety and
41 for the purpose of preventing unreasonable conduct and abuses by
42 hunters, and to provide reasonable control of the actions and behavior
43 of such persons, said commissioner may issue regulations and orders to
44 [(12)] (A) prohibit the carrying of loaded firearms and hunting within
45 specified distances of buildings, [(13)] (B) prohibit the discharge of
46 firearms and other hunting devices within specified distances of
47 buildings and, when within specified distances, the discharge of such
48 firearms and devices toward persons, buildings and livestock, [(14)] (C)
49 prohibit hunting while on any road adjacent to any state park, state
50 forest, premises used for the breeding, rearing or holding in captivity of
51 wildlife or premises used for zoological purposes, [(15)] (D) establish
52 minimum distances between fixed positions, floating and drift blinds

53 for waterfowl hunting, [(16)] (E) prohibit crossing over lawns and lands
54 under cultivation, [(17)] (F) prohibit damage to property, livestock and
55 agricultural crops, [(18)] (G) prohibit, during specified periods on
56 designated areas, the training, exercising and running of dogs under
57 control or uncontrolled, [(19)] (H) prohibit the operation and parking of
58 vehicles on designated portions of public and private roads, parking
59 areas, lanes, passageways, rights-of-way, fields and lots, [(20)] (I)
60 prohibit the discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter and
61 trash, [(21)] (J) control the launching, anchoring, mooring, storage and
62 abandonment of boats, trailers and related equipment on properties
63 under the control of the commissioner, [(22)] (K) specify [(A)] (i) the
64 persons who shall wear fluorescent orange clothing, [(B)] (ii) the time
65 periods during which such clothing shall be worn, and [(C)] (iii) the
66 types and amounts of such clothing which shall be worn, on and after
67 January 1, 1989, when hunting.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 53-203 |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 26-66 |

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*