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House Bill 207

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 155<sup>th</sup>, Tankersley of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Nimmer of the 178<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
- 2 relating to licenses, permits, and stamps for hunting, trapping, or fishing, so as to provide a
- 3 definition; to authorize issuance of a special turkey-hunting permit for young and mobility
- 4 impaired hunters; to amend Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
- 5 relating to seasons and bag limits for wildlife, so as to provide for an extended turkey season
- 6 for young and mobility impaired hunters; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
- 7 laws; and for other purposes.

## 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

- 9 **SECTION 1.**
- 10 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
- licenses, permits, and stamps for hunting, trapping, or fishing, is amended by adding a new
- 12 Code section to read as follows:
- 13 "27-2-4.4.
- 14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'mobility impaired person' means any person
- 15 who has been verified by a doctor of medicine currently licensed to practice by the Georgia
- 16 Composite Medical Board, the State Board of Examiners in Osteopathy, or an equivalent
- body of another state to have any one of the following permanent conditions:
- 18 (1) Dependance upon a wheelchair or similar device for ambulation;
- 19 (2) Hemiplegia;
- 20 (3) Monoplegia;
- 21 <u>(4) Paraplegia; or</u>
- 22 (5) Single-leg amputation above the knee.
- 23 (b) The commissioner may issue special authorization to hunt turkeys during an extended
- 24 open season to:
- 25 (1) Any person who is 16 years of age or younger at any time during the year in which
- special authorization is sought pursuant to this Code section; or

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- 27 (2) Any mobility impaired person.
- 28 Such special authorization shall be for the extended open season only and shall not be valid
- 29 <u>for subsequent seasons unless reauthorization is approved.</u>
- 30 (c) The commissioner may impose any terms and conditions deemed necessary to
- 31 <u>implement the provisions of this Code section.</u>"

32 SECTION 2.

- 33 Code Section 27-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to seasons and bag
- limits for wildlife, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) and paragraph (3)
- of subsection (b) as follows:
- 36 "(3) Turkey
- 37 (A) Gobblers May 22 March 14; except that the
- 38 <u>closed season shall be May 22 —</u>
- March 12 for those individuals who
- 40 <u>have obtained special authorization</u>
- 41 <u>pursuant to Code Section 27-2-4.4</u>
- 42 (B) Hens All year"
- 43 "(3) Turkey March 15 May 21; except that there 3 3"
- 44 gobblers <u>shall be an extended open season</u>
- 45 <u>March 13 March 14 for individuals</u>
- 46 who have received special authorization
- 47 pursuant to Code Section 27-2-4.4
- 48 SECTION 3.
- 49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.