

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1238 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, STEFANO AND VOGEL, MARCH 18, 2026

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 18, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in hunting and furtaking, further providing for
3 unlawful devices and methods and for prohibited devices and
4 methods.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 2308(b.1) and 2322(a)(2) of Title 34 of
8 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 2308. Unlawful devices and methods.

10 * * *

11 (b.1) Additional exception.--[A semiautomatic rifle may be
12 used to hunt game in accordance with regulations promulgated by
13 the commission.] A semiautomatic centerfire rifle that fires
14 .223 caliber or larger ammunition may be used to hunt big game
15 if the rifle is limited to a capacity of not more than three
16 cartridges.

17 * * *

18 § 2322. Prohibited devices and methods.

19 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in this

1 title or commission regulation, no person shall hunt, kill or
2 take or attempt, aid, abet, assist or conspire to hunt, kill or
3 take any big game, except wild turkey, with any of the following
4 devices or methods:

5 * * *

6 (2) Any automatic or semiautomatic firearm, except [that
7 any semiautomatic firearm modified to permit one shell in the
8 chamber and no more than four shells in a magazine may be
9 used by a person who suffered an amputation or lost the total
10 use of one or both hands.] as follows:

11 (i) A semiautomatic firearm may be used as provided
12 under section 2308(b.1) (relating to unlawful devices and
13 methods).

14 (ii) A semiautomatic firearm may be used by a person
15 who suffered an amputation or lost the total use of one
16 or both hands if the firearm is modified to permit one
17 shell in the chamber and no more than four shells in a
18 magazine.

19 * * *

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.