



## **House Game & Fisheries Committee**

### **Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

9:30AM-10:30AM

Room 515 Irvis Office Building

Call to Order

Roll call

- **House Bill 2440, PN 3284 (Mehaffie)** – This legislation would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize the Pennsylvania Game Commission to permit the use of baiting to attract deer for removal on private property designated by the commission.
- **House Bill 2460, PN 3274 (Kulik)** - This legislation would require the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to work in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to develop an age-appropriate hunting and trapping educational program for students in grades six through twelve.
- **House Resolution 496, PN 3307 (Hohenstein)** – This resolution would designate the week of May 16th through May 22nd, 2026, as “National Safe Boating Week” in the Commonwealth. As the boating season picks up, this measure would promote safe boating by reminding boaters to follow the basic safety steps to ensure boaters and their families stay safe while enjoying the beauty of Pennsylvania’s waterways.

Questions/Comments

Any other business

Adjournment

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2440 PN3284	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patricia McMillan (717) 787-7005
<b>Committee:</b>	Game & Fisheries	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Paul Scott
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Mehaffie, Thomas		
<b>Date:</b>	4/28/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

This legislation would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize the Pennsylvania Game Commission to permit the use of baiting to attract deer for removal on private property designated by the commission.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This legislation would amend Section 2308 (Unlawful devices and methods) of Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding the following provisions under subsection (b) Exceptions:

- (iv) Any licensed hunter, while on private property in an area designated by the commission and using bait to attract deer for removal as provided by commission regulations:
  - A. to address wildlife disease transmission or habitat degradation or for any other purpose established by commission regulations; or
  - B. through a special permit issued in accordance with 58 Pa. Code Ch. 147 (relating to special permits).

### **Effective Date:**

This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Currently, the use of baiting is not permitted under Section 2308 (Unlawful devices and methods) of Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

N/A.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2440 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY MEHAFFIE, KULIK AND NEILSON, APRIL 27, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, APRIL 27, 2026

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AN ACT

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

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

6 Section 1. Section 2308(b)(2) of Title 34 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a  
8 subparagraph to read:

9 § 2308. Unlawful devices and methods.

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not  
12 apply to:

13 \* \* \*

14 (2) \* \* \*

15 (iv) Any licensed hunter, while on private property  
16 in an area designated by the commission and using bait to  
17 attract deer for removal as provided by commission  
18 regulations:

19 (A) to address wildlife disease transmission or

1           habitat degradation or for any other purpose  
2           established by commission regulations; or  
3           (B) through a special permit issued in  
4           accordance with 58 Pa. Code Ch. 147 (relating to  
5           special permits).

6           \* \* \*

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

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2460 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY KULIK, GOUGHNOUR, IRVIN, GILLEN, KEPHART, NEILSON,  
STEELE, PASHINSKI AND MEHAFFIE, APRIL 24, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, APRIL 27, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto deemed a reference to "area career and  
6 technical school," in terms and courses of study, providing  
7 for hunting and trapping education; and imposing duties on  
8 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Game  
9 Commission.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
14 section to read:

15 Section 1529. Hunting and Trapping Education.--(a) No later  
16 than July 1, 2027, the commission, in consultation with the  
17 department, shall develop and make available to each school  
18 entity a model program of age-appropriate hunting and trapping  
19 education, including firearm safety instruction, for students in  
20 grades six through twelve.

21 (b) The firearm safety instruction under the model program

1 must:

2 (1) Comply with the firearm safety training requirements of  
3 the commission's basic hunter-trapper education course.

4 (2) Be taught by an individual who is a commission-certified  
5 hunter education instructor.

6 (3) Include the following topics:

7 (i) Proper usage and handling of firearms.

8 (ii) Safe cleaning and maintenance of firearms.

9 (iii) Different types of firearms.

10 (iv) Safe hunting practices and techniques.

11 (v) History of wildlife conservation and hunting.

12 (c) Firearms or ammunition may not be brought into a school  
13 building as part of the firearm safety instruction under the  
14 model program.

15 (d) A school entity may provide the firearm safety  
16 instruction under the model program as:

17 (1) an optional extracurricular class for students in grades  
18 six through twelve in the school entity; or

19 (2) part of an existing course for the purpose of teaching  
20 self-expression and enjoyment of recreational activity.

21 (e) Upon request by a parent or legal guardian of a student,  
22 the student shall be excused, without penalty or loss of  
23 academic credit, from attending the firearm safety instruction  
24 under the model program.

25 (f) A student who completes the firearm safety instruction  
26 under the model program is deemed to have completed the  
27 commission's basic hunter-trapper education course that is  
28 required to obtain a hunting license under State law.

29 (g) The commission, in consultation with the department,  
30 shall prescribe procedures necessary to implement and administer

1 the model program.

2 (h) Any training hours offered by the commission for school  
3 entities that result in a school staff member becoming a  
4 certified hunter education instructor or for the purposes of  
5 administering any other program offered by the commission shall  
6 count towards continuing professional education under sections  
7 1205.1, 1205.2 and 1205.3.

8 (i) Any costs incurred by a school entity as a result of  
9 this section shall be reimbursed by the commission.

10 (j) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Game Commission.

14 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Firearm." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to  
17 definitions).

18 "Hunting." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102.

19 "Model program." The model program developed under  
20 subsection (a).

21 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,  
22 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,  
23 intermediate unit, area career and technical school or parochial  
24 school.

25 "Trapping." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2460 PN3274	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patricia McMillan (717) 787-7005
<b>Committee:</b>	Game & Fisheries	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Paul Scott
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Kulik, Anita		
<b>Date:</b>	4/28/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

This legislation would require the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to work in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to develop an age-appropriate hunting and trapping educational program for students in grades six through twelve.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This legislation would amend Act 14 of 1949 (The Public School Code of 1949) by adding a new section 1529 (Hunting and Trapping Education) to require the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to work in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to develop and make available to each school an age-appropriate hunting, trapping and firearm safety instructional program for students in grades six through twelve.

The firearm safety portion of the program must comply with the firearm safety training requirements of the commission's basic hunter/trapper education course. Additional requirements for firearm safety training would include:

- Proper usage and handling of firearms.
- Safe cleaning and maintenance of firearms.
- Instruction on different types of firearms.
- Safe hunting practices and techniques.
- History of wildlife conservation and hunting.

**Note that bringing in firearms and ammunition into schools as part of this program would be strictly forbidden.** However, firearm safety instruction would be permitted during an optional extracurricular class for students in six through twelfth grades or as part of an existing course for the purpose of teaching self-expression and enjoyment of a recreational activity.

Students completing the firearm safety instruction under the model program would be deemed to have completed the commission's basic hunter-trapper education course that is required to obtain a hunting license under State law.

Training hours offered by the commission for school entities that result in a school staff member becoming a certified hunter education instructor or for the purposes of administering any other program offered by the commission shall count towards continuing professional education under sections 1205.1, 1205.2 and 1205.3 of Act 14 of 1949 (The Public School Code of 1949).

Costs incurred by the school as a result of this program would be reimbursed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Definitions for the section include, but are not limited to the following:

"Firearm" is described in the legislation as "as defined in 34 Pa.C.S. Section 102 which reads:

- "An instrument used in the propulsion of shot, shell, bullet or any other object by the action of gunpowder exploded, explosive powder, the expansion of gas or the

force of a mechanical device under tension.

- (1) "Automatic." Any firearm which discharges more than once with a single pull of the trigger.
- (2) "Semiautomatic." Any firearm which reloads without aid of the shooter, but fires only once with a single pull of the trigger.

"Hunting" is described as "as defined in 34 Pa.C.S. Section 102, which reads: "Any act or furtherance of the taking or killing of any game or wildlife, or any part or product thereof, and includes, but is not limited to, chasing, tracking, calling, pursuing, lying in wait, trapping, shooting at, including shooting at a game or wildlife facsimile, or wounding with any weapon or implement, or using any personal property, including dogs, or the property of others, of any nature, in furtherance of any of these purposes, or aiding, abetting or conspiring with another person in that purpose."

"School entity" is described as "A school district, joint school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit, area career and technical school or parochial school."

"Trapping." is described as defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102, which reads: "The securing or attempting to secure possession of game or wildlife by means of setting, placing or using any device that is designed to close upon, hold fast, confine or otherwise capture game or wildlife whether these means result in capturing or not. It includes every act of assistance to any other person in capturing game or wildlife by means of such device whether these means result in capturing or not."

**Effective Date:**

This legislation would become effective immediately.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

N/A.

**E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

N/A.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 496 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, WAXMAN, HARKINS, NEILSON, CONKLIN,  
KULIK, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, McNEILL, DOUGHERTY, GUENST,  
FREEMAN, GALLAGHER, RIVERA, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, PASHINSKI,  
MALAGARI, D. WILLIAMS AND HADDOCK, APRIL 28, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, APRIL 29, 2026

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 16 through 22, 2026, as "National  
2 Safe Boating Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Boating is a fun and healthy recreational activity,  
4 from canoeing and kayaking on Pennsylvania's numerous creeks and  
5 ponds to deepwater boating on large rivers and lakes; and

6 WHEREAS, Safety is the most important consideration in any  
7 boating activity; and

8 WHEREAS, Basic knowledge, skills and safety equipment are  
9 required to ensure that boat operators, whether first-time  
10 participants or seasoned operators, understand the exemplary  
11 benefits of being out on the water as well as potential risks  
12 and dangers; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, in  
14 partnership with other organizations and entities, provides  
15 basic boating courses, paddling safety and educational  
16 opportunities for the public; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania law requires an individual to obtain a

1 boating safety education certificate if the individual was born  
2 after January 1, 1982, and operates a powerboat with a motor  
3 greater than 25 horsepower or if the individual operates a  
4 personal watercraft; and

5 WHEREAS, United States Coast Guard-approved, properly sized  
6 and fitted life jackets are required for each person aboard a  
7 watercraft; and

8 WHEREAS, Life jackets are the most important piece of  
9 equipment on a boat, as nearly 80% of all boating fatalities in  
10 this Commonwealth occur because boaters were not wearing a life  
11 jacket at the time of the incident; and

12 WHEREAS, Lives can be saved each year by the simple act of  
13 wearing life jackets while boating; and

14 WHEREAS, Safe boating practices and the responsible, legal  
15 use of prescription drugs or alcohol are everyone's  
16 responsibility; and

17 WHEREAS, Recognizing and promoting safe boating practices and  
18 wearing a life jacket while enjoying Pennsylvania's waterways  
19 are essential; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
21 week of May 16 through 22, 2026, as "National Safe Boating Week"  
22 in Pennsylvania.