



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Proposed Bill No. 5569**

LCO No. 1867



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. ANDERSON, 62nd Dist.

SEN. SEMINARA, 8th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BLACK BEAR MEASURES AND  
CARRYING HAND GUNS IN STATE FORESTS.**

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Require the Department  
2 of Energy and Environmental Protection to publish an estimated black  
3 bear habitat carrying capacity and the estimated black bear population  
4 in the state on or before June thirtieth of each year; (2) prohibit the  
5 deliberate feeding of black bears to reduce habituation to humans and  
6 institute civil fines for violations of such prohibition; (3) add black bears  
7 to the Crop Damage Permit Program by July 1, 2023; (4) allow permits  
8 to hunt black bears that are causing unreasonable damage to livestock,  
9 rabbits, poultry or bees; (5) establish a clear statutory authority allowing  
10 the use of lethal force against a black bear that poses an immediate threat  
11 to the life and limb of livestock with "livestock" defined as cattle, sheep,  
12 pigs, goats, horses, donkeys, mules, buffalo, oxen, llamas or alpacas; (6)  
13 establish a clear statutory authority allowing the use of lethal force  
14 against a black bear that poses an immediate threat to the life or limb of  
15 a human that includes entry of a black bear into an occupied dwelling;

16 (7) allow handgun permit holders to carry a handgun, including  
17 centerfire calibers, for the purposes of self-defense, on public state land  
18 where hunting is permitted, to include state forests and wildlife  
19 management areas, as well as on private land, regardless of the hunting  
20 or nonhunting activity of the individual carrying the handgun, and to  
21 include authorizing carrying of a handgun for self-defense during  
22 archery hunting; and (8) grant authority for a limited bear hunting  
23 season when habitat carrying capacity is exceeded, with the following  
24 parameters: (A) The hunting season shall have a target harvest number  
25 based on the estimated population and the habitat carrying capacity and  
26 the hunting season on black bears shall be closed when that number is  
27 reached, provided bears killed via euthanasia, motor vehicle accident,  
28 crop or livestock deprivation permit or in self-defense, shall be deducted  
29 from the target harvest number; (B) black bear hunting seasons shall be  
30 scheduled within, but not necessarily for the entire period of the various  
31 deer hunting seasons, provided the allowable hunting implements for  
32 bear hunting shall be the same as for deer for the given date and location  
33 of the hunt; (C) it shall be illegal to bait black bear for hunting, including  
34 the use of lure, scents or any other substance as a bear attractant; (D) it  
35 shall be illegal to use dogs for bear hunting; and (E) the bear hunting  
36 permit fee shall not exceed twenty-eight dollars for residents and  
37 nonresidents and may be purchased any time before the bear hunting  
38 season is closed, provided no permits shall be issued when the bear  
39 hunting season is closed due to reaching the target number and such  
40 permit shall be in addition to regular hunting license fees but no refunds  
41 shall be issued.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To improve public safety, protect private property and promote the welfare of a burgeoning black bear population.