
CONSENT

Bill No: AB 1912
Author: Hadwick (R), et al.
Amended: 3/25/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/9/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Reyes

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26

AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Deer: archery season: concealed firearms

SOURCE: California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association
California Deer Association

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a hunter to carry a firearm during the archery-only hunting season for deer.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a hunting license, issued by the department for the taking of birds and mammals. (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §§3031–3040)
- 2) Prohibits the take (i.e., hunting) of a deer without first procuring a deer tag or permit. (FGC §4330)
- 3) Authorizes any resident of the state, 12 years of age or over, to possess one deer tag. Further authorizes that person to possess a second deer tag, as provided. (FGC §4332)

- 4) Provides for an archery season preceding times when deer may be taken during a general open hunting season. (FGC §4370)
 - a) Requires a minimum of three days between archery and general open hunting seasons on deer.
- 5) Prohibits a person hunting deer during archery season from carrying or having in their immediate control, any firearm of any kind. Exempts active or honorably retired peace officers from this prohibition. Allows those peace officers to carry a firearm capable of being concealed during archery season, but prohibits them from taking the deer with the firearm. (FGC §4370)
- 6) Prohibits a person, through carelessness or neglect, from leaving a game mammal or the flesh of that animal from going needlessly to waste. (FGC §4304)
- 7) Exempts a licensed hunter from the prohibition of carrying a firearm in a public place or on any public street while masked so as to hide the person's identity, as long as the licensed hunter is actually engaged in lawful hunting, or while going directly to or returning directly from the hunting expedition. (Penal Code §25300)
- 8) Exempts licensed hunters or fishermen carrying pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person while engaged in hunting or fishing, or transporting those firearms unloaded when going to or returning from the hunting or fishing expedition from the crime of concealing a firearm. (Penal Code §25400)

This bill:

- 1) Removes the prohibition that a hunter attempting to take deer during archery season not carry or have in their possession a firearm of any kind.
- 2) Removes an exception, previously only granted to peace officers, to allow a person to carry a firearm capable of being concealed while taking a deer with a bow and arrow, as a conforming change.

[NOTE: See the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and Senate Committee on Public Safety bill analyses for additional background on this bill.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/1/26)

California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association (co-sponsor)
California Deer Association (co-sponsor)
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council
California Hawking Club
California Houndsmen for Conservation
California Rifle & Pistol Association
California Waterfowl Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
HOWL for Wildlife
National Wild Turkey Foundation – California State Chapter
Rocky Mountain Elk Association
Sacramento Safari Club
Safari Club International – California Coalition
Safari Club International – San Francisco Bay Chapter
San Diego County Wildlife Federation
Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Suisun Resource Conservation District
The Black Brant Group
Wild Sheep Foundation – California Chapter

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/1/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “California’s archery deer hunters often venture deep into remote wilderness where help may be hours away. While other hunters and anglers are allowed to carry firearms for personal protection, deer archery hunters are prohibited under current law. Assembly Bill 1912 simply allows these hunters to carry a firearm for self-defense while maintaining the integrity of the archery season by continuing to require that deer be taken with a bow. This commonsense reform ensures that hunters can protect themselves from dangerous wildlife and criminal activity while recreating in California’s backcountry.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen,

Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

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