

## Commissioner Walters

### Amendment #4 – All opening days to begin on a Saturday

I MOVE TO AMEND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER AMENDMENT NO. 7 OF 2023 TO CHANGE OPENING DAYS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Liberty Hunt - Begin the last Saturday in September for 2 days.
  - Independence Hunt - Begin the last Saturday in September for 4 days.
  - Early Archery Season - Begins on the first Saturday in October and ends on the Friday before Firearm Deer Season.
  - Firearm Deer Season - Begins on the third Saturday in November and ends on the first Sunday in December.
  - Late Archery Season- Begins on the Monday following the conclusion of the firearm deer season through January 1.
  - Muzzleloader Season (LP) - Begins on the second Saturday in December for 10 days.
  - Muzzleloader Season (UP) - Begins the Monday after Firearm Deer Season for 7 days.
  - Late Antlerless Season – Begins Tuesday following conclusion of Muzzleloader season in zones 2 and 3.
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## 2.1 Taking of animals; prohibited methods, devices, and weapons; exceptions.

Sec. 2.1 Unless otherwise specified in this order, a person shall not do any of the following:

(1) Make use of a pit, pitfall, deadfall, scaffold, raised platform, tree, cage, snare, trap, net, baited hook, or similar device, or a drug, poison, anti-coagulant, stupefying substance, smoke, gas, explosive, weasel, ferret, fitchew, arbalest, spear, or mechanical device, for the purpose of taking an animal or driving an animal out of their hole or home. For the purpose of this order, a mechanical device shall not be construed to mean a firearm, crossbow, slingshot, or bow and arrow. When used in this order, "raised platform" means a horizontal surface constructed or manufactured by a person that increases the field of vision of a person using the horizontal surface beyond the field of vision that would normally be attained by that person standing on the ground.

(2) Use in taking an animal, or have in the persons possession in an area frequented by animals, a semiautomatic shotgun or rifle other than .22 caliber or smaller rimfire, capable of holding more than six shells at one time in the magazine and barrel combined, or use a cartridge containing a tracer bullet, or a cartridge containing an explosive bullet, or a firearm capable of firing more than one shot with a single pull or activation of the trigger.

(3) During the five days immediately preceding **the open firearm deer season November 15**, transport or possess in an area frequented by deer a rifle or shotgun with buckshot, slug load, ball load, or cut shell. A person may transport a rifle or shotgun to or from a hunting camp if the rifle or shotgun is unloaded and securely encased or carried in the trunk of a vehicle. This section shall not prohibit a resident who holds a fur harvesters license from carrying a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller while hunting or checking a trap line during the open season for hunting or trapping fur-bearing animals.

(4) Use in hunting, or, subject to section 43510, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43510, possess afield in an area inhabited by wild birds and animals within the "limited firearms deer zone" **during the open firearm deer season from November 15 to November 30**, or use to take a deer during any firearm deer season in the "limited firearms deer zone," a firearm other than:

(a) A shotgun with a smooth or rifled barrel.

(b) A .35 caliber or larger pistol capable of holding no more than nine shells at one time in the barrel and magazine combined and loaded with straight-walled cartridges.

(c) A muzzle-loading rifle or black-powder pistol loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured blackpowder substitute.

(d) A .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges with a minimum case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches.

(e) A .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high-compression power source such as an external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor.

(5) Injure, destroy, or rob the eggs of birds protected by the laws of this state or this order, or molest, harass, or annoy those birds upon their nests.

(6) Make use of a sink box or battery as these devices are defined by the United States fish and wildlife service.

(7) Set afire or assist in setting afire a marshland or other lands for the purpose of driving out wild birds or wild animals, or take or attempt to take a wild bird or wild animal so driven out of a marshland or other land.

(8) Take any animal at any time other than during the hunting hours and open seasons established in this order, except as may otherwise be provided in chapter VI.

(9) Take in 1 day more than the daily limit, or possess at one time more than the possession limit, or possess on the first day of the open season more than the daily limit, or possess more than the season limit of any animal.

(10) Destroy, disturb, or molest at any time any bear, beaver, muskrat, raccoon, squirrel, mink, badger, or rabbit house, hole, burrow, nest, dam, or den which may be used by such animals.

(11) Make use of a dog in hunting deer, except as noted in section 2.1a of this order.

(12) Affix any device to a bow, which aids in the cocking or holding of a bow string in a drawn position. This subsection shall not prohibit the use of a hand-held device to release the bow string. This subsection shall not apply to a permanently or temporarily disabled person who holds a special permit provided for in section 40101 to 40119 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40101 to 324.40119, or section 5.95 of this order.

(13) Use aircraft to aid in the taking of a wild bird or wild animal.

(14) Take game with a crossbow unless the hunter possesses a valid license to take game and uses only arrows, bolts, and quarrels for taking deer, bear, elk, wolf, and turkey with a broadhead hunting type of point not less than 7/8 of an inch wide with a minimum of 14 inches in length.

~~(15) Take deer with a crossbow or a modified bow in zone 1 from December 1 to March 31, except in the core CWD surveillance area where an individual may take deer with a crossbow. This subsection shall not apply to a person who holds a special permit provided for in part 401, wildlife conservation, natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40101 to 324.40119, or section 5.95 of this order.~~

~~(16)~~ (15) Subject to section 40116, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40116, take game during the established daylight shooting hours from August 15 through April 30 unless the individual wears a cap, hat, vest, jacket, or rain gear of hunter orange. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange must be the hunter's outermost garment and be visible from all sides of the hunter. This does not apply to an individual engaged in the taking of deer with a bow or crossbow during archery deer season, an individual taking bear with a bow or crossbow, an individual engaged in the taking of turkey or migratory birds other than woodcock, an individual engaged in the sport of falconry, or an individual who is stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote, or fox.

~~(17)~~ (16) Possess or use lures or attractants in an area frequented by game that contain or claim to contain cervid urine or other bodily fluids originating from cervids, except for products produced by manufacturers that are actively enrolled and participating in either the official Responsible Hunting Scent Association or Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program, which has been tested for the presence of chronic wasting disease by a qualified laboratory and certified that no detectable levels of chronic wasting disease are present and is clearly labeled as such.

### **3.100 Take of deer; prohibited firearms, legal weapons, "bait" and "baiting" defined, conditions for baiting established in certain area(s); unlawful acts.**

Sec. 3.100 (1) "Take" means the same as defined in section 40104, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40104.

(2) An individual must possess while hunting deer the unused kill tag issued with the deer license, pursuant to section 3.103, and provide it to a conservation officer, a law enforcement officer, or a tribal conservation officer upon request.

(3) Unless otherwise specified in this order, an individual shall not do any of the following:

(a) Take a deer without possessing a valid license with kill tag.

(b) Take a deer other than during the open seasons established in this order.

(c) Take a deer outside of lawful hunting hours.

(d) Take a deer by any method other than by firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

(e) Take a deer with a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller.

(f) Take a deer during any firearm deer season in the "limited firearms deer zone," with a firearm other than a shotgun with a smooth or rifled barrel, a .35 caliber or larger pistol capable of holding no more than nine shells at one time in the barrel and magazine combined and loaded with straight-walled cartridges, a .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges with a minimum case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches, a .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high-compression power source, or a muzzleloading rifle or black-powder pistol loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured blackpowder substitute.

(g) Take a deer, or have in possession while hunting deer, a semiautomatic shotgun or rifle, capable of holding more than six shells in the magazine and barrel combined, or use a cartridge containing a tracer or explosive bullet, or a firearm capable of firing more than one shot with a single pull or activation of the trigger.

(h) Take a deer using an arrow, bolt, or quarrel with a broadhead hunting type of point less than 7/8 of an inch wide and/or a length less than 14 inches.

~~(i) Take a deer with a crossbow or a modified bow in zone 1 from December 1 to March 31 except for the core CWD surveillance area unless issued a disability crossbow permit by the department.~~

~~(j)~~ (i) Take a deer while the deer is swimming in a pond, lake, stream, or other body of water.

~~(k)~~ (j) Make use of a dog in hunting a deer, except as noted in section 2.1a of this order.

~~(l)~~ (k) Use aircraft to aid in the taking of a deer.

~~(m)~~ (l) Set afire or assist in setting afire any land for the purpose of driving out a deer, or take or attempt to take a deer so driven out of any land.

~~(n)~~ (m) Purchase a deer license unless the individual holds a current base license.

~~(o)~~ (n) Possess or use natural cervid urine-based lures or attractants not marked with the official archery trade association seal of participation stamp in an area frequented by deer. **Possess or use lures or attractants in an area frequented by game that contain or claim to contain cervid urine or other bodily fluids originating from cervids, except for products produced by manufacturers that are actively enrolled and participating in either the official Responsible Hunting Scent Association or Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program, which has been tested for the presence of chronic wasting disease by a qualified laboratory and certified that no detectable levels of chronic wasting disease are present and is clearly labeled as such.**

(4) For the purposes of this section and sections 3.100a, and 3.205, "bait" means a substance intended for consumption by deer composed of grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other food materials, whether natural or manufactured. "Bait" does not include scents – whether composed of natural or synthetic materials – made inaccessible for consumption by deer and placed in such a manner to prohibit any physical contact with deer, the establishment and maintenance of plantings for wildlife, foods found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting practices, foods available to deer through normal agricultural practices of livestock feeding if the area is occupied by livestock actively consuming the feed on a daily basis, or standing farm crops under normal agricultural practices. For the purposes of this section, "baiting" means to place, deposit, tend, distribute, or scatter bait to aid in the taking of a deer.

~~(a) "Single bite bait" shall mean shelled corn, nuts, beet pulp, deer feed or pellets, or wheat or other grain.~~

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, it shall be unlawful for a person to make use of bait to aid in the taking of a deer within zone 2, **and zone 3, exceptions:** ~~and the core CWD surveillance area.~~

(a) Eligible individuals participating in the Liberty Hunt described in section 3.101e, may make use of bait to aid in the taking of a deer if the baiting occurs only from five days prior to the **first day of the season second Saturday in September** to the last day of the season and the provisions of subsection (6b), (6c), and (6d) are met. All bait shall be removed prior to any additional hunting during this season. This does not apply to youth hunters participating in the Liberty Hunt who only meet the eligibility requirements of section 3.101e (2a).

(b) Eligible individuals participating in the Independence Hunt as described in section 3.101g, may make use of bait to aid in the taking of a deer if the baiting occurs only from the first day of the season to the last day of the season and the provisions of subsection (6b), (6c), and (6d) are met. All bait shall be removed prior to any additional hunting during this season.

(6) In remaining portions of Michigan not described in subsection (5), a person may engage in baiting only if all of the following conditions apply:

(a) The baiting occurs only from September 15 to January 1, **except that eligible participants participating in the Liberty Hunt may use bait five days prior to the second Saturday in September.**

(b) The bait material may be of any food type.

(c) The bait is scattered directly on the ground by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute on the ground more than the maximum volume allowed as described in subdivision (d) of this subsection. "Scattered" means that the bait is dispersed or thrown over a minimum of a 10- foot by 10-foot or equivalent area so that individual pieces of bait are separated and not placed in piles. The purpose of scattering is to mimic natural feeding conditions.

(d) The volume of bait used at any 1 point in time shall not exceed 2 gallons at any 1 hunting site.

(e) Subsection (6) is subject to Section 3.100a (2) of this order.

(7) Except as otherwise provided by subsection 5, it shall be unlawful for a person to make use of bait to aid in the taking of a deer if the bait and baiting does not meet all of the conditions specified in subsection (6) unless specifically authorized.

### **3.101 Deer hunting open seasons; type of deer that may be taken; carrying of firearms, season limit.**

Sec. 3.101. (1) The open firearm deer season shall be from **the third Saturday in November** ~~November 15~~ to **the first Sunday in December.** ~~November 30.~~

(2) The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season ~~in zone 1, zone 2, and zone 3~~ shall be:

**(a) a total of 10 7 days from the first Friday Monday following the first Sunday** in December to **six** ~~nine~~ days thereafter **in zone 1.**

**(b) a total of 10 days from the second Saturday in December to nine days thereafter in zones 2 and 3.**

(3) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, except as provided in subsection (5), an individual hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured black-powder substitute, or a crossbow.

(a) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, except as provided in subsection (5), an individual hunting deer in zone 3, including the entirety of Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Muskegon, and Bay counties, during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a weapon that is legal to possess or carry afield, or to take a deer with during the open firearm deer season for that respective zone.

(4) The open bow and arrow season shall be from **the first Saturday in** October **4** through **the Friday before the third Saturday in November** ~~November 14~~ and from **the Monday following the conclusion of the open firearm deer season** ~~December 1~~ through January 1.

(a) Subject to all other provisions of this order, in the urban deer management zone, as defined in chapter XII of this order, the open bow and arrow season shall be from **the first Saturday in** October **4** through **the Friday before the third Saturday in November** ~~November 14~~ and from December 1 through January 31.

(5) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, during the open bow and arrow season, as described in subsection (4), an individual hunting deer with a bow and arrow or a crossbow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless:

(a) The individual is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(b) The individual is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to the muzzleloading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 2 and zone 3.

(c) An individual taking a deer under the terms and conditions of a disease control permit authorized under section 5.77 of this order may possess or carry a bow and arrow or crossbow, and a firearm, if applicable.

(6) An early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a two-day hunt starting the Saturday following September 15 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford counties, upon privately owned lands within that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, and upon privately owned lands within that portion of Leelanau county within deer management unit 045. Only an individual possessing a valid antlerless deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license may take a deer during this season. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license, deer license, or deer combination license shall be used to harvest an antlerless deer only.

(7) A late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the ~~Monday~~ **Tuesday** following the conclusion of the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season **in zones 2 and 3** through January 1 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Antrim, Alpena, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford counties, upon privately-owned lands within that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, and upon privately owned lands within that portion of Leelanau county within deer management unit 045. Only an individual possessing a valid antlerless

deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license may take a deer during this season. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license, deer license, or deer combination license shall be used to harvest an antlerless deer only.

(8) The deer management assistance firearm hunt period shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon lands owned by federal, state, county, or local units of government, non-profit organizations, and other urban or suburban properties in zone 3. Only those areas with a wildlife division approved deer population management plan will be considered for issuance of these special deer management assistance permits. Only an individual possessing a valid deer management assistance permit issued for this hunt period may take a deer with a firearm or a crossbow during this season.

(9) The season limit shall be 1 deer per deer license.

(10) Except as provided by subsection (12) and sections 3.101a, 3.101c, **and 3.101i and 3.101j**, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons for each combination of season and deer license, except antlerless deer license, shall be as shown in table 2:

**TABLE 2**

**License, Season, Deer to be Taken**

<b>Type of license</b>	<b>Season in which used</b>	<b>Kind of deer that may be taken</b>
Deer license, deer combination regular license	Bow and arrow only seasons (zone 1)	Antlerless or an antlered deer, subject to the following: <del>(a) Antlerless deer shall only be taken in DMUs open to antlerless licenses.</del> <del>(b) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 127, 066, 131, 042, 031, 007, and 048. This does not apply to any DMU within a designated core CWD surveillance area.</del> <del>(c) (a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a and 3.101c.</del> <del>(d) Antler point restrictions do not apply in the core CWD surveillance area.</del>
Deer license, deer combination regular license	Bow and arrow only seasons (zones 2 and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer. Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101i. <del>and 3.101j.</del>
Deer license, deer combination regular license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season (zone 1)	Antlered deer. Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a and 3.101c. <del>Antler point restrictions do not apply in the core CWD surveillance area.</del>
Deer license, deer combination regular license	Liberty hunt and Independence hunt (zones 1, 2, and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer.
Deer license, deer combination regular license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season (zone 2 and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer. Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101i. <del>and 3.101j.</del>
Deer combination restricted license	Bow and arrow only season (zone 1)	An antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or

		more inches in length., <del>subject to the following:</del> (a) <del>Antlerless deer shall only be taken in DMUs open to antlerless licenses.</del> (b) <del>Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 127, 066, 131, 042, 031, 007, and 048. This does not apply to any DMU within a designated core CWD surveillance area.</del> (c) <del>Antler point restrictions do not apply in the core CWD surveillance area.</del>
Deer combination restricted license	Bow and arrow only (zones 2 and 3)	An antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length. <del>Antler point restrictions do not apply in the CWD management zone, except as provided in 3.101(j).</del>
Deer combination restricted license	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season (zone 1)	A deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length. <del>Antler point restrictions do not apply in the core CWD surveillance area.</del>
Deer combination restricted license	Liberty hunt and Independence hunt (zones 1, 2, and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer.
Deer combination restricted license	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season (zones 2 and 3)	An antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length. <del>Antler point restrictions do not apply in the CWD management zone, except as provided in 3.101(j).</del>
Mentored youth deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons, firearm deer season, muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season, or Liberty hunt	Antlerless or antlered deer. Antler point restrictions do not apply.

(11) The director may authorize a disease management hunt lasting no longer than nine days between January 2 and March 31 where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives.

(12) Individuals possessing a deer license, deer combination regular license, or deer combination restricted license are exempt from antler point restrictions during all deer seasons as listed in table 2 if one of the following applies:

(a) The individual is a youth 16 years of age and younger. Individuals under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program.

(b) The individual is licensed under a base apprentice license.

### **3.101e Liberty hunt, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.**

Sec. 3.101e (1) The liberty hunt shall be a 2-day hunt starting the **second last** Saturday in September.

(2) Individuals wishing to participate in the liberty hunt shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth 16 years of age or less may participate in the liberty hunt. Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs may participate in the liberty hunt. Documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable may participate in the Liberty hunt. Documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(d) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt from a standing vehicle.

(e) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt using a laser sighting device.

(f) An individual is blind as defined by section 1 of 260 PA 1978, MCL 393.351.

(g) An individual is deaf as defined by section 2 of 72 PA 1978, MCL 408.202. (

3) The following rules shall apply to an individual taking deer on the liberty hunt:

(a) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult subject to section 43517 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517. Subject to section 43510(2) and (3) of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510 and section 43517 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517, an adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except as a qualified mentored youth hunting program mentor or a veteran with 100 percent disability may possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow if hunting under the authority of section 3.101e(2b).

(b) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, local time.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to an individual participating in the Liberty hunt.

(4) During the Liberty hunt, a hunter may take one deer provided they possess a deer license, deer combination license, an antlerless deer license valid for the unit in which they are hunting, or a deer license issued under the mentored youth license. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, licenses are valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer during the Liberty hunt, except that an antlerless deer license is valid only for an antlerless deer.

### **3.101g Independence hunt, season established, eligibility requirements, limits defined.**

Sec. 3.101g (1) The independence hunt shall be a total of 4 days starting the **last Saturday in September** ~~Thursday prior to the third Saturday in October~~ and for 3 days thereafter upon privately owned land, or public land requiring an access permit and open to the independence hunt by lottery.

(2) An individual wishing to participate in the independence hunt shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt from a standing vehicle.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs. Documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable. Documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(d) An individual is blind, as defined by section 1 of 1978 PA 260, MCL 393.351.

(e) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt using a laser sighting device.

(f) An individual is deaf as defined by section 2 of 72 PA 1978, MCL 408.202.

(3) An eligible individual wishing to participate in the independence hunt on public land must apply for a permit through a lottery system in accordance with instructions provided by the land manager.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to an individual participating in this hunt.

(5) During the independence hunt, a qualifying hunter may take one deer provided they possess a deer license, deer combination license, or an antlerless deer license valid for the unit in which they are hunting. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, during the independence hunt, a deer license or deer combination license is valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer.