

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5495**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 4, 2023

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 5495.

This committee substitute clarifies that a person engaged in hunting would not be permitted to use a firearm except as prescribed by the State Fish and Game Code. The substitute removes from current law a restriction prohibiting bow hunting with a bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means. In addition, the bill increases from \$20 to \$100 the fine for unlawfully hunting certain game animals and unlawfully hunting with a firearm with certain characteristics.

Finally, the substitute incorporates into certain provisions of current law a prohibition against carrying a “long gun” while hunting. Under the bill, the term “long gun” is to include all forms of firearms except for handguns, which may be carried in accordance with Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.