

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 5495

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2023

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5495 ACS.

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 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.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5495 ACS is identical to the committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 3846 SCS, which was also reported by the committee on this date.