

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.18.

Commentary:

With the recent passage of HB 1188, the Pennsylvania Game Commission now has the regulatory oversight to approve the use of night vision equipment. Each year the Commission is asked to review the prospective use of certain devices for hunting or trapping purposes that are otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. As part of the review process, the Commission generally reviews to what degree use of a given device might negatively impact principles of resource conservation, equal opportunity, fair chase or public safety. The Commission has recently been requested to formally review the use of hand-held and firearm-mounted night-vision and infrared optics for furbearer hunting. The Commission has reviewed these devices and determined that their use will have no or negligible negative impacts to the previously mentioned principles. The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.18 (relating to permitted devices) to authorize the use of hand-held and firearm-mounted night-vision and infrared optics used solely for furbearer hunting.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.18. Permitted devices.

Notwithstanding the prohibitions in § 141.6 (relating to illegal devices), the following devices may be used to hunt or take wildlife:

(1) Firearms that use an electronic impulse...

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(11) Electronic hand-held and firearm-mounted night-vision and infrared optics used solely for furbearer hunting.

Action: