

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 470

SENATORS CLINE, HAMILTON, PITSENBARGER, SYPOLT,

ROBERTS, AND AZINGER, *original sponsors*

[Originating in the Committee on Natural Resources;

reported on January 22, 2020]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-5g of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to use of a crossbow to hunt; decreasing length of crossbow; and specifying measurement
3 method.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5g. Use of a crossbow to hunt.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any person lawfully
2 entitled to hunt may hunt with a crossbow during big game firearms season. A person who
3 possesses a valid Class Y permit may also hunt with a crossbow in accordance with §20-2-42w
4 of this code. Further, the director shall designate a separate season for crossbow hunting and
5 identify which species of wildlife may be hunted with a crossbow.

6 (b) Only crossbows meeting all of the following specifications may be used for hunting in
7 West Virginia:

8 (1) The crossbow has a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds;

9 (2) The crossbow has a working safety; and

10 (3) The crossbow is used with bolts and arrows not less than ~~eighteen~~ 16 inches in length
11 as measured from the leading end of the shaft, including the insert, to the trailing end of the shaft,
12 including thenock, with a broad head having at least two sharp cutting edges, measuring at least
13 three fourths of an inch in width.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit the use of bolts and arrows not less than 16 inches with a broad head when hunting with a crossbow.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.