

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***David T. Vieira***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to outdoor heritage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 920 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to outdoor heritage.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 58 of chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 6, after the word "thereof" the following  
3 words:- , provided that a person may hunt with a bow and arrow from an elevated tree stand not  
4 less than 250 feet from any dwelling in use except as authorized by the owner or occupant  
5 thereof

6 SECTION 2. Section 64 of chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
7 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the words “, or any  
8 crossbow, except as provided in section 69, nor” and inserting in place thereof the following the  
9 word:- nor.

10 SECTION 3. Said chapter 131 is hereby further amended by striking out section 69, as so  
11 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:- Section 69. A person shall not

12 carry or use a bow and arrow or crossbow while hunting unless the bow and arrow or crossbow  
13 meet the requirements of the rules and regulations which shall be promulgated by the director.  
14 Such rules and regulations shall prescribe general design, weight of pull and type of bows and  
15 arrows or crossbows and shall conform to standards generally accepted for hunting purposes.

16 SECTION 4. Section 5 of chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
17 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following  
18 paragraph:- The hunting of deer by bow and arrow shall be permitted on any date, including a  
19 Sunday or legal holiday, that the director declares as an open season for such hunting. Except as  
20 otherwise provided in the preceding paragraph, an open season declared by the director for the  
21 hunting of deer by bow and arrow, which open season period occurs in whole or in part, within  
22 the last 3 months of the calendar year, shall be for a period of not less than 7 days that shall be  
23 consecutive.

24 SECTION 5. Section 57 of said chapter 131, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 inserting at the end of the paragraph the following sentence:- Notwithstanding, this section shall  
26 not prohibit or render unlawful, the hunting of deer by bow and arrow or the carrying on his  
27 person a bow and arrow for the purpose of hunting deer, during any Sunday declared as an open  
28 season for such hunting, by the director with the approval of the fisheries and wildlife board.