



2025 South Dakota Legislature  
**Senate Bill 78**  
**ENROLLED**

AN ACT

**ENTITLED An Act to authorize a change in bullet diameter for use in taking certain animals.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

**Section 1. That § 41-8-17 be AMENDED:**

**41-8-17.** Between sunset and sunrise, no person may use or possess night-vision equipment or throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, motor vehicle headlight, or other artificial light onto a highway, or into any field, pasture, woodland, forest, or prairie, for the purpose of spotting, locating, taking, attempting to take, or hunting any animal, if the person is in possession or control of a firearm, bow, or other implement by which an animal could be killed. The prohibitions set forth in this section do not apply to a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's duties.

Notwithstanding the prohibitions set forth in this section:

- (1) A person may use a handheld light, while the person is on foot, to:
  - (a) Take raccoons after the raccoons have been treed by dogs; or
  - (b) Engage in trapping activity and take trapped fur-bearing animals;
- (2) From January first to August thirty-first, inclusive, a person may use night vision equipment, but not artificial light, to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on public land and uses:
  - (a) A shotgun and shotshells; or
  - (b) A firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches;
- (3) From January first to August thirty-first, a person may use night vision equipment, but not artificial light, to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on private land that is under lease to the Department of Game, Fish and

Parks for the purpose of providing public access, has the permission of the landowner, and uses:

- (a) A shotgun and shot shells; or
  - (b) A firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches;
- (4) A person may use night vision equipment and artificial light to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on private land, and uses:
- (a) A shotgun and shot shells; or
  - (b) A firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches; and
- (5) An employee of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may, while performing animal damage control, use night-vision equipment and artificial lights, provided the employee obtains permission from the person owning or occupying the land prior to taking an animal that is causing damage.

For purposes of this section, artificial light, means a man-made light or lighting device that projects lumination for an unaided eye.

For purposes of this section, night-vision equipment, means an electronic or battery-powered device that enhances a person's ability to see in the dark.

A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

An Act to authorize a change in bullet diameter for use in taking certain animals.

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I certify that the attached Act originated in the:

Received at this Executive Office this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

Senate as Bill No. 78

2025 at \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

By \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

The attached Act is hereby approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2025

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,**

ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Attest:

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 2025  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Senate Bill No. 78  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Secretary of State