

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 559*

Committee Substitute Favorable 4/24/17

Senate State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 6/6/17

Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 6/14/17

Short Title: Outdoor Heritage Enhanced.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 5, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE USE OF FIREARMS FOR HUNTING OF WILD ANIMALS AND UPLAND GAME BIRDS ON SUNDAY AND TO ALLOW HUNTING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS ON SUNDAY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 103-2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 103-2. Method of take when hunting on Sunday.

(a) Any landowner or member of the landowner's family, or any person with written permission from the landowner, ~~may~~may, subject to rules established by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hunt wild animals and upland game birds with the use of firearms on Sunday on the landowner's property, except that all of the following limitations apply:

(1) ~~Hunting on Sunday between 9:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. is prohibited, except on controlled hunting preserves licensed pursuant to G.S. 113-273(g).~~

(2) ~~Hunting of migratory birds on Sunday is prohibited.~~

(3) The use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs on Sunday is prohibited.

(4) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of ~~worship~~religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence not owned by the landowner, is prohibited.

(5) ~~Hunting on Sunday in a county having a population greater than 700,000 people is prohibited.~~

(a1) Any person may, subject to rules established by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hunt wild animals and upland game birds with the use of firearms on Sunday on public lands of the State managed for hunting, except that the following limitations apply:

(1) The use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs on Sunday is prohibited.

(2) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, is prohibited.

(a2) The hunting of migratory birds on Sunday is prohibited unless authorized by proclamation or rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission, subject to the following limitation:

(1) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall not authorize hunting of migratory birds on Sunday prior to March 1, 2018.



1 (2) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as
2 defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, is prohibited.

3 (b) A person who hunts on Sunday in a manner prohibited under ~~subsection (a) of this~~
4 section or rules adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission shall be guilty of a Class 3
5 misdemeanor. Provided, that the provisions of this section are not applicable to military
6 reservations, the jurisdiction of which is exclusively in the federal government, to field trials
7 authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission, or to actions taken in defense of a person's
8 property. Wildlife protectors are granted authority to enforce the provisions of this section."

9 **SECTION 2.** Section 5(c) of S.L. 2015-144 reads as rewritten:

10 **"SECTION 5.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective October 1, ~~2017, 2020.~~
11 A county may adopt an ordinance to prohibit Sunday hunting prior to October 1, ~~2017, 2020.~~
12 but any such ordinance shall not become effective until October 1, ~~2017, 2020.~~ The remainder
13 of this section becomes effective October 1, 2015."

14 **SECTION 3.** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall complete a study that
15 includes, but is not limited to, examining biological and resource management impacts,
16 economic impacts, and social impacts associated with hunting migratory birds on Sunday. The
17 Wildlife Resources Commission shall submit its findings to the Speaker of the House, the
18 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chair or chairs of the House Committee on
19 Wildlife Resources no later than March 1, 2018.

20 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.