

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 559*
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/24/17

Short Title: Outdoor Heritage Enhanced.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 5, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE USE OF FIREARMS FOR HUNTING OF WILD ANIMALS
3 AND UPLAND GAME BIRDS ON SUNDAY AND TO ALLOW HUNTING OF
4 MIGRATORY BIRDS ON SUNDAY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "§ 103-2. Method of take when hunting on Sunday.

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

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

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

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

17 (4) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory
18 structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence not owned by the
19 landowner, is prohibited.

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

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

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

27 (2) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory
28 structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence, is prohibited.

29 (a2) The hunting of migratory birds on Sunday is prohibited unless authorized by
30 proclamation or rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission, subject to the following
31 limitation. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall not authorize hunting of migratory birds
32 on Sunday prior to March 1, 2018.

33 (1) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory
34 structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence, is prohibited.

35 (b) A person who hunts on Sunday in a manner prohibited under ~~subsection (a)~~ of this
36 section or rules adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission shall be guilty of a Class 3



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1 misdemeanor. Provided, that the provisions of this section are not applicable to military
2 reservations, the jurisdiction of which is exclusively in the federal government, to field trials
3 authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission, or to actions taken in defense of a person's
4 property. Wildlife protectors are granted authority to enforce the provisions of this section."

5 **SECTION 2.** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall complete a study that
6 includes, but is not limited to, examining biological and resource management impacts,
7 economic impacts, and social impacts associated with hunting migratory birds on Sunday. The
8 Wildlife Resources Commission shall submit its findings to the Speaker of the House, President
9 Pro-Tempore of the Senate, and the chair or chairs of the House Committee on Wildlife
10 Resources no later than March 1, 2018.

11 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.