

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

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 in existence on or  
18 before June 1, 2017, or any accessory structure thereof, ~~or within 500 yards~~  
19 ~~of a residence not owned by the 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 in existence on or  
28 before June 1, 2017, or any accessory structure thereof, 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:

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

34 (2) Hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of worship in existence on or  
35 before June 1, 2017, or any accessory structure thereof, is prohibited.



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

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

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

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

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