

Senator Aument's Senator for a Day Sunday Hunting Reference Articles:



Bill For Sunday Hunting To Be Introduced In Pennsylvania

State Rep. Frank Farina, D-Lackawanna, announces he will introduce bill to allow Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania.

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Pennsylvania hunters would finally be able to hunt on up to a dozen Sundays if legislation being introduced by two state representatives passes.

State Rep. Frank Farina, D-Lackawanna, and Rep. Robert Godshall, R-Montgomery Tuesday announced they will introduce legislation to allow the Pennsylvania Game Commission to authorize eight to 12 Sundays of hunting in Pennsylvania, which is one of 11 states that now restricts it.

"Times have changed, our schedules and our lives have changed. It's time the outdated laws in Pennsylvania change as well," said Farina in the Capitol Rotunda Tuesday morning.

"This is our land, and we should be allowed to enjoy the sport we love on our land, when we want," he said, adding that hunting fees have helped fund the purchase of 1.5 million acres of public lands.

Godshall said the state eliminated the "blue law" on fishing in 1937, and he sponsored a bill 20 years ago that allowed Sunday hunting on private regulated shooting grounds. "If you're a regular guy on the street, you still don't hunt on Sundays," Godshall said.

Pennsylvania has a decades old ban on most Sunday hunting for large and small game. Still, feral swine, crows, foxes and coyotes may be hunted on Sundays and farmers at any time may kill deer and elk that are damaging their crops or property.

The change comes at a time when the state budget could use the estimated \$800 million that Farina said Sunday hunting could add to the economy, along with 7,000 jobs.

People now go to church on Saturday, and can gamble and buy alcohol on Sundays, said Farina, who chairs the Pennsylvania Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

Another supporter is Rep. William Kortz, D-Allegheny County, who said he often couldn't hunt on the first day of deer season due to his long hours working in a steel mill.

"I have talked to naysayers - the trail walkers, bird watchers, and we had a nice conversation... There can be compromise here and both sides can have what they need," Kortz said.

"It used to be you couldn't buy gas on Sunday. We couldn't buy a pair of shoes on Sunday. You could buy food and that was it," said Steve Mohr of Unified Sportsmen of PA. "What we have to realize is everyone doesn't have a five-day-a-week job anymore," he said.

"I hear the opponents - I hear where they're coming from. But I too am a farmer. And under the present rules and regulations I can't even enjoy my own land on a Sunday," Mohr said.

The hunting blue law "is antiquated, it is discriminatory, and it is a major barrier from families having time afield" in their busy lives, said Janet Nyce, chairwoman of Hunting Works for Pa., based in Perry County.

It would be up to the Pennsylvania Game Commission to enact regulations, and there would be several comment periods, she said.

Here are some hunting stats cited by Nyce:

- The economic ripple from hunting totals \$1.6 billion.
- The average hunter spends \$1,260 per year.
- Hunting supports 15,000 jobs.
- \$986 million is spent by hunters each year.
- Hunting provides \$529 million in salaries.
- \$121 million is generated in state and local taxes from hunting, and \$136 million in federal taxes.

Between work, school and other obligations, Sunday hunting bans work to discourage hunting at a time when participation needs to be promoted to preserve the hunting heritage, said Rebecca Louviere, NRA spokeswoman.

The state has 1.5 million hunters, but only 950,000 licenses were purchased last year. Farina said Sunday hunting could expand those numbers, and help promote hunting with the younger generation of hunters.

"Let's get the 1.5 million hunters back into the Pennsylvania woods. Give us eight to 12 Sundays and let's get these youngsters back into the Pennsylvania woods.

Among those not supporting the change is the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Farina said, due to concerns over trespassing.

In June 2014, the Sunday hunting movement was dealt a setback when a federal judge shot down a lawsuit a sportsmen's group filed challenging the constitutionality of the state's ban on most Sunday hunting.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission in 2010 passed a resolution supporting legislation that would give the Game Commission the authority to make decisions on Sunday hunting. A 2011 legislative study found that Sunday hunting would generate more than \$800 million in economic activity statewide.

State Game Lands total nearly 1.5 million acres, there are an additional 2.2 million acres of private land open to public hunting, state and national forests account for about 2.5 million acres, said Travis Lau, Game Commission spokesman.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/06/bill_would_end_ban_on_sunday_h.html



Sunday Hunting | State Legislation

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Eleven states have statutes that either

completely ban or otherwise restrict hunting on Sundays. Some states specify the location or the types of game permitted for hunting on a Sunday. West Virginia requires a ballot measure in individual counties to bans on Sunday hunting on private lands. During the 2014 session, Virginia enacted legislation ([H.B. 1237](#)) that allowed hunting on Sunday more broadly, including for

raccoons, waterfowl and on private land with permission of the landowner. Maryland also enacted legislation ([S.B. 472](#) and [S.B. 473](#)) in 2014 that decreased the restrictions on Sunday hunting for certain species in certain counties. During the 2015 session, seven states – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina and West Virginia – considered legislation related to Sunday hunting. In 2015, Connecticut ([H.B. 6034](#)) and North Carolina passed [H.B. 640](#) both of which relaxed aspects of their Sunday hunting bans.

The table below includes state statutes that ban or restrict Sunday hunting.

[Connecticut](#) | [Delaware](#) | [Maine](#) | [Maryland](#) | [Massachusetts](#) | [New Jersey](#) | [North Carolina](#) | [Pennsylvania](#) | [South Carolina](#) | [Virginia](#) | [West Virginia](#)

| STATE STATUTES BANNING OR RESTRICTING SUNDAY HUNTING | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| State | Citation | Summary |
| Connecticut | Conn. Gen. Stat. §53A-217E(d) | A person is guilty of negligent hunting if he or she hunts out of season or on a Sunday. A person may hunt deer with bow and arrow on private property. Sunday hunting is allowed only on licensed shooting preserves when the operator has permission from the town, according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. |

STATE STATUTES BANNING OR RESTRICTING SUNDAY HUNTING

| State | Citation | Summary |
|---------------|---|---|
| Delaware | Del. Code Ann. tit. 7, §572 and Del. Code Ann. tit. 7, §712 | No hunting on Sundays except for trapping, training dogs, hunting red foxes with dogs or participating in commercial game preserve operations. It is unlawful to hunt on Sunday except to chase red fox in season. |
| Maine | Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 12, §11205 | No hunting on Sunday. |
| Maryland | Md. Natural Resources Code Ann. §10-410 | No hunting on Sunday, except: 1. a person using state certified raptors to hunt game birds or mammals during open season, 2. an unarmed person participating in an organized fox chase and 3. persons hunting on regulated shooting areas may shoot captive raised game birds. Deer hunting is allowed in some counties on private land on certain dates, and limited turkey hunting in two counties. Sunday hunting of game mammals and game birds, except for migratory game birds and wetland game birds, allowed in three counties on private land or designated public land. |
| Massachusetts | Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 131 §57 | No hunting on Sunday except for regulated private hunting grounds and in defense of one's property. |
| New Jersey | N.J. Rev. Stat. §23:3-32 and §23:4-24 | No person may hunt with firearms or any other weapon or carry a gun in the woods |

STATE STATUTES BANNING OR RESTRICTING SUNDAY HUNTING

| State | Citation | Summary |
|-------|----------|---|
| | | <p>or fields or on the waters on Sunday except: 1. any person hunting raccoon between midnight on Saturday and sunrise on Sunday during the prescribed season, 2. a person possessing a valid and proper rifle permit licensed to trap fur-bearing animals to humanely dispatch legally trapped animals, 3. a person using a bow and arrow to hunt deer during any bow and arrow hunting season for deer prescribed by the State Fish and Game Code, provided the person possesses a valid bow and arrow license, or a valid "All Around Sportsman License" if applicable, issued by the division, abides by all applicable provisions of the code, and is hunting on a State wildlife management area or on private property and 4. any person authorized to shoot pheasants, quail, and partridge. 5. hunting of pheasants, rabbits, jackrabbits, hares, chukar, partridge, quail, squirrels, wild turkeys and woodchuck on Sundays with raptors is permitted during the prescribed seasons. The Sunday hunting ban does not prohibit farm landowners, lessees, immediate family members or farm employees from hunting or destroying crows, woodchucks, foxes and vermin on that land.</p> |

STATE STATUTES BANNING OR RESTRICTING SUNDAY HUNTING

| State | Citation | Summary |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| North Carolina | N.C. Gen. Stat. §103-2 | <p>There is no Sunday hunting, however there are a number of exceptions, although Sunday Hunting is not allowed in a county with a population greater than 700,000 people. The exceptions are as follows: 1. Any landowner, member of the landowner's family, or any person with written permission from the landowner, may hunt with the use of firearms on Sunday on the landowner's property, except that all of the following limitations apply: Hunting on Sunday between 9:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. is prohibited, except on controlled hunting preserves; Sunday hunting of migratory birds is prohibited; the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs on Sunday is prohibited; hunting on Sunday within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence not owned by the landowner, is prohibited. 2. defense of one's own property 3. On military reservations 4. field trials authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission 5. Falconry and dogs used in conjunction with falconry.</p> |
| Pennsylvania | Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. tit. 34, §2303 | <p>It is unlawful to hunt wildlife on Sundays. Exceptions include the hunting of foxes or coyotes and any hunting which occurs on</p> |

STATE STATUTES BANNING OR RESTRICTING SUNDAY HUNTING

| State | Citation | Summary |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | noncommercial regulated hunting grounds holding a valid permit. The law does not apply to removal of lawfully taken game or wildlife from traps or the resetting of the traps on Sunday. |
| South Carolina | S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 123-40 | No hunting on Sundays on Wildlife Management Area lands. |
| Virginia | Va. Code §29.1.-521 | No hunting on Sunday, except for: 1. raccoons until 2 a.m. on Sunday mornings, 2. any person who hunts or kills waterfowl, subject to geographical limitations and except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure, and 3. any landowner or member of his family or any person with written permission from the landowner who hunts or kills any wild bird or wild animal on the landowner's property except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure |
| West Virginia | W. Va. Code §20-2-5 | No hunting on public lands on Sundays after 5 a.m. No hunting on private lands on Sundays after 5 a.m. without the written consent of the landowner provided the county holds an election to let residents determine if Sunday hunting will be allowed on private land only. |

Additional Resources

- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "Sunday Hunting Restrictions"
- National Shooting Sports Foundation. "The Economic Impact of Sunday Hunting"
- <http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/state-sunday-hunting-ban-statutes.aspx>