



Repealing Sunday Hunting Ban Detrimental to NC

Applicable Bills: **Senate Bill 7**

Repealing the current prohibition on Sunday hunting in North Carolina would disrupt outdoor recreational activities, church services, family time, and wildlife rest while straining the Wildlife Resources Commission. The change is not good for the public or hunters and a majority of both groups oppose repealing the ban on Sunday hunting.

BACKGROUND:

For 140 years, North Carolina law has guarded the rights of citizens to safely enjoy religious and recreational activities on Sunday by prohibiting Sunday Hunting. Senate Bill 7 would repeal G.S. 103-2, the current ban on Sunday Hunting.

ANALYSIS:

The current ban on Sunday hunting serves a number of specific and important purposes in North Carolina and repealing it would lead to 5 primary problems:

- 1. Compromise the safe enjoyment of many outdoor recreational activities.** For many outdoor enthusiasts, Sunday is the only day of the week for them to enjoy outdoor recreational activities without fear of being shot. Individuals and families pursue picnicking, hiking, canoeing, horseback riding, climbing and biking activities on Sundays knowing they are safe from errant bullets and arrows.
- 2. Disrupt church services, especially in rural areas.** The current ban protects church services, especially in rural areas, from disruptions caused by Sunday hunting. Sunday is the primary day of worship for most North Carolina citizens. Many churches have services that begin early in the morning and continue well into the afternoon.
- 3. Discourage family time.** Allowing hunting on Sundays would entice hunters to be away from their families the entire weekend. It is not family-friendly. The current ban on Sunday hunting encourages hunters to spend Sunday at home with their families.
- 4. Strain existing Wildlife Resources Commission resources.** Sunday hunting would require additional WRC resources to enforce hunting regulations on another day of the week. This would strain existing resources by stretching current personnel or requiring additional personnel.
- 5. Prevent wildlife rest.** Prohibiting hunting on Sunday allows wildlife to rest and relieves constant hunting pressure on our natural animal resources.

North Carolina Does Not Support Sunday Hunting

Additionally, an extensive 2006 survey of North Carolina citizens and hunters by the WRC revealed that a majority of both the public (65 percent) and hunters (53 percent) *oppose*

repealing the ban on Sunday hunting. Statewide, 22 to 31 percent of the public indicated that legalizing Sunday hunting would curb their participation in the above-mentioned outdoor activities. According to the WRC survey, the anticipated increase in hunting recreation days (more than 1.1 million days) is not enough to overcome the total anticipated loss of 11.2 million recreation days in other activities.

ACTION:

Senate Bill 7 should be rejected not only because of the interruptions it would create in the activities of North Carolina citizens, but also because so many citizens and hunters alike oppose Sunday hunting. The current law provides for the needs of both hunter and non-hunters. Repealing it creates problems without introducing meaningful benefit.