

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 67 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN AND ROBINSON, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
 2 Statutes, in hunting and furtaking, repealing provisions
 3 relating to hunting on Sunday prohibited, providing for
 4 hunting on Sunday and further providing for hunting on Sunday
 5 without written permission.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 2303 of Title 34 of the Pennsylvania
 9 Consolidated Statutes is repealed:

10 [§ 2303. Hunting on Sunday prohibited.

11 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in this
 12 title, it is unlawful for any person to hunt for any furbearer
 13 or game on Sunday.

14 (b) Construction of section.--This section shall not be
 15 construed to prohibit:

16 (1) The training of dogs.

17 (2) The participation in dog trials as provided for in
 18 this title.

19 (3) The removal of lawfully taken game or wildlife from
 20 traps or the resetting of the traps on Sunday.

1 (b.1) Exceptions.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to:

2 (1) The hunting of foxes.

3 (2) The hunting of coyotes.

4 (3) Any hunting which occurs on noncommercial regulated
5 hunting grounds holding a valid permit under section 2928(b)

6 (2) (relating to regulated hunting grounds permits).

7 (4) Hunting on three Sundays each calendar year, as
8 follows:

9 (i) One day of Sunday hunting shall be instituted by
10 the commission during the deer rifle season.

11 (ii) One day of Sunday hunting shall be instituted
12 by the commission during the Statewide deer archery
13 season.

14 (iii) One day of Sunday hunting as determined by the
15 commission shall be instituted by the commission.

16 Authority to hunt on any Sunday instituted by the commission
17 under this paragraph shall not apply to any person required
18 to secure a hunting license who attempts to hunt on private
19 land without obtaining written permission of the landowner,
20 an agent of the landowner or lessee.

21 (c) Penalty.--A violation of this section is a summary
22 offense of the fifth degree.]

23 Section 2. Title 34 is amended by adding a section to read:

24 § 2303.1. Hunting on Sunday.

25 (a) General rule.--The commission may institute Sunday
26 hunting by regulation promulgated in accordance with section
27 2102 (relating to regulations).

28 (b) Applicability.--Authority to hunt for big game on any
29 Sunday instituted by the commission under subsection (a) shall
30 not apply to any person required to secure a hunting license who

1 attempts to hunt on private land without obtaining written
2 permission of the landowner, an agent of the landowner or a
3 lessee.

4 (c) Lawful hunting.--It shall be lawful for a person to hunt
5 for any furbearer or game on Sunday on and after the publication
6 of the final regulation under subsection (a).

7 Section 3. Section 2315(a) of Title 34 is amended to read:

8 § 2315. Hunting on Sunday without written permission.

9 (a) General rule.--A person required to secure a hunting
10 license to hunt commits an offense if, while engaged in hunting
11 on Sunday under section [2303(b.1)(4) (relating to hunting on
12 Sunday prohibited)] 2303.1 (relating to hunting on Sunday), the
13 person enters private land without obtaining written permission
14 of the landowner, an agent of the landowner or lessee.

15 * * *

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

17 (1) The repeal of 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303 shall take effect on
18 the publication of regulations by the commission under 34
19 Pa.C.S. § 2303.1.

20 (2) This section shall take effect immediately.

21 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60
22 days.