

Legislative Committee Report – January 11, 2009 PA Chapter NWTB Board meeting

PA General Assembly 2007-2008 closed on November 30, 2008. All bills not passed and sent to the Governor will be removed and will need to be resubmitted in 2009-2010 legislative session for a new bill number if they are to be introduced. In this past legislative session PFSC was tracking 557 bills.

Of these bills the Governor signed into law 3 Firearms bills, 6 Game and Trapping bills, 5 Fish and Boating bills, 5 Environmental bills, 6 Energy bills, and 3 Other bills, aka amended Dog Law. House or Senate resolutions are not be reported.

These firearms and game and wildlife code bills were monitored by this Legislative Committee. Underlines were commented on by Legislative Committee. Only one Game and Wildlife Code legislative bill signed by the Governor directly impacted wild turkey management. One unsigned bill was directly related to wild turkey management.

HR 642 – Deer Audit by 3<sup>rd</sup> party, audit being funded by General Assembly

HB 251 [HB 1862] – legalize hunting outside 150 yard perimeter around bait anywhere in commonwealth during any hunting season

HB 641 – Castle Doctrine – amends Title 18 providing for further increased property owner protection

**HB 747 – Elk license lottery, all amendments removed; Signed by the Governor**

HB 779 – legalize Sunday Hunting through Game Law Title 34 [not by Regulation Title 54]

HB 863 – extend spring gobbler season to all day

HB 1214 – PGC Commissioner term limit, management by social and other recreational values

HB 1676 – State Sales Tax revenue going to PGC and PFBC; 1/8 of 1%, with appx \$10 M going to PGC and \$5 M going to PFBC

**HB 1845 – Amend Titles 18 and 42, further provide tougher laws to penalize people who commit various gun related crimes, further protecting law-abiding gun owners; Signed by the Governor**

HB 1862 [HB 251] – legalize hunting over shelled or ear corn anywhere in Pennsylvania during any hunting season

HB 2205 – Wildlife poacher(s) fines and penalties increases

HB 2364 – Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact law – add Pennsylvania to list of states

HB 2381 – PGC should be guided and support by verifiable data with equal regard for social, economic, and recreational impacts; No longer permit current and former employees or DWCO to serve on Board of Commissioners

**HB 2525 – Amends dog law, including kennels and sporting dogs; Signed by the Governor**

HB 2575 – Amends Title 34 (Game) providing for deterrent fences for deer, bear, & elk & the payment of claims for damages by certain elk; imposing duties on Dept. of Agriculture; establishment of the Elk Damage Fund

HB 2653 – bow definition change, legalize crossbow for all hunting seasons

SB 151- HB 1543 – legislation to ban pigeon shooting

SB 740 – Spring Creek Canyon land title to Penn State University and Brenner Township rather than PGC for game lands

**SB 580 – Allowing for use of a dog to pursue, chase, scatter and track wild turkey during fall wild turkey season; Signed by the Governor**

SB 1527 – Senate Legislative bill to increase hunting license back tag and antlerless deer tags 3 times over next 7 years

2009-2010 Legislative Session started January 13, 2009.

List of all House and Senate Committee leaders and members is being developed, should have final list within a week.

Next Legislative Rally Day will be held in March or April, possibly sooner, depending on the Senate legislative calendar.