

PA Chapter NWTF Legislative Committee Report
Legislative Bills – January 8, 2012 Board Meeting

PA Legislative Bill Locator --

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>

Game and Wildlife Code Bills and Firearms Bills will be monitored and reported to PANWTF Board of Directors from House and Senate Game and Fisheries and Judicial Committees. All future legislative committee reports for 2011 will show bill number and description only when legislation is approved by either House or Senate Committee or signed by the Governor. Legislative Bills for 2012 Legislative Session – will submit separate legislative bill listing either from PGC Legislative Liaison or PFSC Legislative Liaison.

PGC Legislative Report forwarded to PA Chapter Board on January 2, 2012.

HB 40 Perry (R)

Amends Titles 18 (Crimes & Offenses) & 42 (Judiciary) further providing for use of force in self-protection, protection of other persons, grading of theft offenses & for licenses to carry firearms; & providing for civil immunity. Also known as Castle Doctrine.

Signed by Governor Corbett, June 28, 2011.

SB 274 Alloway (R)

(PN 250) Amends Title 34 (Game) in hunting and furtaking, licenses, to allow the Pennsylvania Game Commission to establish regulations fostering youth hunting, including allowing exemptions for youth hunting activities. This includes allowing a youth hunter to have no more than one antlerless deer permit per season. In special licenses and permits, allowing the commission to define, implement and provide for the issuance of falconry permits to eligible persons. Makes it illegal to engage in falconry without a valid permit

Signed by Governor Corbett, June 24, 2011.

HB 735 Gillespie (R)

(PN 2093) Amends Title 34 (Game) in hunting and furtaking, licenses, to remove the requirement that an individual display a hunting or furtaker license and specifies that an individual must only have the appropriate license in their possession while engaging in hunting or trapping.

Signed by Governor Corbett, December 15, 2011

Other Title 34 Legislation

SB 1046 Amends Title 34 to allow for PGC Hunting License Increase – referred to Senate Game and Fisheries Committee – May 6, 2011

HB 169 allow for Small Games of Chance to increase prize limits – passed House (184-12), Senate – Second Consideration – December 14, 2011

HB 575 Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the right to hunt, fish and harvest game.
Status: voted favorably from House Game and Fisheries Committee; set on House Calendar.

HB 881 Amends Title 34 to create an exception to the prohibition on using dogs to hunt big game, when the dog is a leashed blood tracking dog being used to pursue a deer that was injured or killed during a lawful hunting season – referred to House Game and Fisheries Committee – March 2, 2011

HB 1760 Amends Title 34 to allow for Sunday Hunting – to remove the prohibition on hunting certain species on Sunday, and requires the Commission to adopt regulations implementing Sunday hunting – referred to House Game and Fisheries Committee – June 29, 2011

Legislation News

State legislators continue recent trend of outdoorsmen-friendly voting: Far and away the biggest victory for sportsmen was the 124-69 vote by the state house to recommit Senate Bill 71. Commonly known as the "pigeon-shoot bill" because it would prevent legal live pigeon shoots, in reality this is the first step anti-hunting groups have used in other states to make the breeding of game birds illegal if they will be stocked for hunting by agencies such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, shooting preserves, clubs and private individuals. Also, anyone who ever lost a hunting license or ruined a garment by pinning on a license holder welcomed the passage of legislation supported by Rep. Neal Goodman of Mahanoy City eliminating the requirement to display a license.

Credit: Doyle Dietz, RepublicanHerald, January 1, 2012