

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 927 Session of  
2004

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INTRODUCED BY B. SMITH AND PHILLIPS, NOVEMBER 17, 2004

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, NOVEMBER 17, 2004

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study on the social, economic, philosophical and  
3 practical impact of providing expanded hunting opportunities,  
4 including hunting on Sunday, in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians traditionally work Monday through  
6 Friday and pursue some form of outdoor activity on Saturday and  
7 Sunday; and

8 WHEREAS, Sporting and recreational activities of all forms  
9 provide a healthy way to escape hectic lifestyles and spend more  
10 time with family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, With the exception of hunting, the State places no  
12 limits on sporting activities during the first day of the week,  
13 a day frequently set aside specifically for sports; and

14 WHEREAS, It has become statistically evident that  
15 participation in hunting is declining, especially among young  
16 people; and

17 WHEREAS, Young residents of this Commonwealth, including  
18 students from grades 7 through 12, are finding it increasingly  
19 difficult to free their schedules from Monday through Saturday

1 to find time to hunt; and

2 WHEREAS, Working Pennsylvanians from all vocations routinely  
3 cite lack of time as the primary reason they do not participate  
4 in hunting more frequently; and

5 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians are required by their employers  
6 to work through all or a portion of the weekend; and

7 WHEREAS, Expanded hunting, boating and fishing opportunities  
8 would enhance the ability of our sportsmen and sportswomen to  
9 pass down their love of the outdoors to the next generation; and

10 WHEREAS, Many individuals have the opportunity to hunt only  
11 on Saturday, and on many Saturdays the weather is inclement; and

12 WHEREAS, The sale of hunting licenses has brought innumerable  
13 benefits to this Commonwealth by preserving land, habitat and  
14 multiple game and nongame species; and

15 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth currently allows limited Sunday  
16 hunting for crow, coyote and fox and hunting on noncommercial  
17 regulated shooting grounds; and

18 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is second only to Texas in the total  
19 number of gun owners; and

20 WHEREAS, Limiting Sunday hunting has placed the Commonwealth  
21 at an economic disadvantage in terms of competing with  
22 neighboring states that allow Sunday hunting; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Sportsmen's  
24 Foundation, Pennsylvania hunters and anglers had total  
25 expenditures of more than \$2 billion, providing a ripple effect  
26 on the State economy of \$3.89 billion; and

27 WHEREAS, The economic loss associated with limited hunting  
28 through lost license fees, lost gas tax, hotel tax and income  
29 tax revenue and lost jobs is thought to be staggering but has  
30 never been measured; and

1       WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians believe that the Commonwealth and the  
2       Pennsylvania Game Commission should not impede a person's  
3       ability to enjoy an activity; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
5       Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the issue of  
6       sport hunting relating to the economic advantages the  
7       Commonwealth could realize if the ban on expanded hunting were  
8       lifted; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
10      explore the economic impact of the more than 600 regulated  
11      hunting grounds across this Commonwealth and the economic impact  
12      of regulated hunting grounds on other outdoor recreation  
13      facilities in this Commonwealth; and be it further

14      RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
15      consider the impact of expanded hunting on private landowners  
16      and examine possible remedies for landowners who would exclude  
17      their land from Sunday hunting; and be it further

18      RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee,  
19      upon completion of its report, make a public presentation and  
20      make committee staff available, upon request, for public  
21      presentations to the Game and Fisheries Committee, the Commerce  
22      Committee, the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee  
23      and the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee; and be it  
24      further

25      RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
26      report to the House of representatives on its activities,  
27      findings and recommendations within 180 days of the adoption of  
28      this resolution.