

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 61

Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY SEMMEL, B. SMITH, BROWNE, DALLY, HARHART AND
REICHLEY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 16, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study on the use of rifles versus shotguns within
3 this Commonwealth and recommend whether special regulation
4 areas should be expanded.

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission was established in
6 1895 and was charged with the "duty to protect, propagate,
7 manage and preserve the game or wildlife of the Commonwealth";
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly, in the interest of public
10 safety and proper game management, further charged the
11 Pennsylvania Game Commission to prescribe the type of firearms,
12 ammunition, bows and arrows usable in this Commonwealth to take
13 game; and

14 WHEREAS, On June 1, 1979, the Pennsylvania Game Commission
15 restricted firearm use in special regulation areas to the use of
16 single projectile shotguns and muzzleloaders, enlarged the
17 Southeast special regulation area and identified Allegheny
18 County as a second special regulation area; and

1 WHEREAS, Suburban sprawl and population density growth are
2 expanding within this Commonwealth, and sportswriters have
3 suggested expanding existing special regulation areas and
4 designating additional special regulation areas in response to
5 this, ~~especially in light of increasing tragic incidents during~~ <—
6 ~~recent hunting seasons;~~ and

7 WHEREAS, For a number of years, many sportsmen have
8 anticipated and supported the expansion of existing special
9 regulation areas and the designation of additional special
10 regulation areas; ~~and~~ <—

11 ~~WHEREAS, When comparing population densities in~~
12 ~~Pennsylvania's 67 counties, it appears to be inconsistent that~~
13 ~~center fire rifles remain lawful in counties with population~~
14 ~~density in excess of some of the counties which are now included~~
15 ~~within a special regulation area designation;~~ therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
17 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on
18 the use of rifles versus shotguns within this Commonwealth and
19 recommend whether special regulation areas should be expanded;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
22 contract with a risk assessment specialist to conduct the study
23 in coordination with the Pennsylvania Game Commission; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the study shall include, but not be limited
26 to, the following details:

- 27 (1) ballistics;
28 (2) projectile construction;
29 (3) projectile type;
30 (4) topography;

- 1 (5) land use;
- 2 (6) population density;
- 3 (7) hunter density; and
- 4 (8) structure density;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
7 prepare both a written and an oral report, within 180 days of
8 the adoption of this resolution, and present it to the Game and
9 Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives.