

RESOLUTION

DELAWARE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH

REGARDING DE HOUSE BILLS 450 HA1 AND 451 AND DE SENATE BILLS 6 and 302

Which, respectively, propose bans on many modern sporting rifles, firearm/ammunition purchase and hunting prohibitions on adults aged 18-20, bans on firearm magazines capable of holding more than 17 rounds, and allowing of lawsuits against members of the firearms industry for straw purchase or theft crimes committed by others

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of Fish and Wildlife and considers matters related to the protection, conservation and propagation of all forms of fish and protected wildlife of the State and such other matters as may be referred to it by the Governor, Secretary of the Department or Director of Fish and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish may also study, research, plan and advise the Director, the Secretary, and the Governor on matters it deems appropriate to enable the Division to function in the best possible manner; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish recognizes the importance of hunting and sport shooting to Delaware wildlife conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish recognizes the economic impact of hunting and sport shooting to Delaware and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish recognizes that the federal Pittman-Robertson Act provides money for wildlife restoration, habitat acquisition, development and management as well as hunter education and public shooting range development, operation and maintenance via an 11 percent federal excise tax on sporting firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10 percent tax on handguns; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish addressed a

shortfall in Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife revenue and matching Pittman-Robertson funds by supporting a hunting license fee increase that took effect in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish is concerned that Delaware House Bill 450 with HA1, and 451 and Delaware Senate Bills 6 and 302 will significantly reduce available funding for Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife operations and will adversely affect Delaware's conservation efforts and the overall enjoyment of Delaware's wild lands by all consumers, including hunters, hikers, bike riders, horseback riders, bird watchers, and more.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish hereby opposes Delaware House Bills 450 with HA1, and 451 and Delaware Senate Bills 6 and 302.

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This RESOLUTION, having been considered by the Delaware State Advisory Council On Wildlife & Freshwater Fish in a virtual meeting held on June 28, 2022 during which a quorum was then present and participating, and having received unanimous approval by the affirmative vote of all Council members then present and voting, is hereby declared to be **PASSED.**

Date: June 28, 2022

Council Chair: *Edward A. Montague*