WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2627

FISCAL NOTE

BY DELEGATES STATLER, PHILLIPS, LEWIS, DEAN,

WAGNER AND MCGEEHAN

[Introduced February 21, 2017; referred

to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural

Resources then the Judiciary.]

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1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to 2 amend and reenact §20-2-5 of said code, all relating to requiring that open hunting season 3 for big game begin on a Saturday; removing certain restrictions on hunting; permitting 4 Sunday hunting on private property throughout the state with written consent of the 5 landowner; creating a ballot measure permitting counties to prohibit Sunday hunting on 6 private land if a majority of voters within the county approve the prohibition; and permitting 7 Sunday hunting on certain public lands in counties where private hunting on Sunday is 8 permitted.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §20-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and 2 reenacted; and that §20-2-5 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

§20-1-7. Additional powers, duties and services of director.

In addition to all other powers, duties and responsibilities granted and assigned to the
 director in this chapter and elsewhere by law, the director is hereby authorized and empowered
 to:

4 (1) With the advice of the commission, prepare and administer, through the various
5 divisions created by this chapter, a long-range comprehensive program for the conservation of
6 the natural resources of the state which best effectuates the purpose of this chapter and which
7 makes adequate provisions for the natural resources laws of the state;

8 (2) Sign and execute in the name of the state by the Division of Natural Resources any
9 contract or agreement with the federal government or its departments or agencies, subdivisions
10 of the state, corporations, associations, partnerships or individuals;

(3) Conduct research in improved conservation methods and disseminate information
matters to the residents of the state;

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(4) Conduct a continuous study and investigation of the habits of wildlife and, for purposes

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of control and protection, to classify by regulation the various species into such categories as may
be established as necessary;

(5) Prescribe the locality in which the manner and method by which the various species of
 wildlife may be taken, or chased, unless otherwise specified by this chapter: *Provided*, That open
 <u>hunting season for big game shall begin on a Saturday;</u>

(6) Hold at least six meetings each year at such time and at such points within the state,
as in the discretion of the Natural Resources Commission may appear to be necessary and proper
for the purpose of giving interested persons in the various sections of the state an opportunity to
be heard concerning open season for their respective areas, and report the results of the meetings
to the Natural Resources Commission before such season and bag limits are fixed by it;

(7) Suspend open hunting season upon any or all wildlife in any or all counties of the state with the prior approval of the Governor in case of an emergency such as a drought, forest fire hazard or epizootic disease among wildlife. The suspension shall continue during the existence of the emergency and until rescinded by the director. Suspension, or reopening after such suspension, of open seasons may be made upon twenty-four hours' notice by delivery of a copy of the order of suspension or reopening to the wire press agencies at the State Capitol;

30 (8) Supervise the fiscal affairs and responsibilities of the division;

31 (9) Designate such localities as he or she shall determine to be necessary and desirable
32 for the perpetuation of any species of wildlife;

(10) Enter private lands to make surveys or inspections for conservation purposes, to
 investigate for violations of provisions of this chapter, to serve and execute warrants and
 processes, to make arrests and to otherwise effectively enforce the provisions of this chapter;

36 (11) Acquire for the state in the name of the Division of Natural Resources by purchase,
37 condemnation, lease or agreement, or accept or reject for the state, in the name of the Division
38 of Natural Resources, gifts, donations, contributions, bequests or devises of money, security or
39 property, both real and personal, and any interest in such property, including lands and waters,

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40 which he or she deems suitable for the following purposes:

41 (a) For state forests for the purpose of growing timber, demonstrating forestry, furnishing
42 or protecting watersheds or providing public recreation;

43 (b) For state parks or recreation areas for the purpose of preserving scenic, aesthetic,
44 scientific, cultural, archaeological or historical values or natural wonders, or providing public
45 recreation;

46 (c) For public hunting, trapping or fishing grounds or waters for the purpose of providing
47 areas in which the public may hunt, trap or fish, as permitted by the provisions of this chapter and
48 the rules issued hereunder;

49 (d) For fish hatcheries, game farms, wildlife research areas and feeding stations;

50 (e) For the extension and consolidation of lands or waters suitable for the above purposes
51 by exchange of other lands or waters under his or her supervision;

52 (f) For such other purposes as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(12) Capture, propagate, transport, sell or exchange any species of wildlife as may be
 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

55 (13) Sell timber for not less than the value thereof, as appraised by a qualified appraiser appointed by the director, from all lands under the jurisdiction and control of the director, except 56 57 those lands that are designated as state parks and those in the Kanawha State Forest. The 58 appraisal shall be made within a reasonable time prior to any sale, reduced to writing, filed in the 59 office of the director and shall be available for public inspection. The director must obtain the 60 written permission of the Governor to sell timber when the appraised value is more than \$5,000. 61 The director shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal 62 advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code and 63 the publication area for such publication shall be each county in which the timber is located. The 64 timber so advertised shall be sold at not less than the appraised value to the highest responsible 65 bidder, who shall give bond for the proper performance of the sales contract as the director shall

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66 designate; but the director shall have the right to reject any and all bids and to readvertise for 67 bids. If the foregoing provisions of this section have been complied with and no bid equal to or in 68 excess of the appraised value of the timber is received, the director may, at any time, during a 69 period of six months after the opening of the bids, sell the timber in such manner as he or she 70 deems appropriate, but the sale price shall not be less than the appraised value of the timber 71 advertised. No contract for sale of timber made pursuant to this section shall extend for a period 72 of more than ten years. And all contracts heretofore entered into by the state for the sale of timber 73 shall not be validated by this section if the same be otherwise invalid. The proceeds arising from 74 the sale of the timber so sold shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall 75 be credited to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter: Provided, That 76 nothing contained herein shall prohibit the sale of timber which otherwise would be removed from 77 rights-of-way necessary for and strictly incidental to the extraction of minerals;

78 (14) Sell or lease, with the approval in writing of the Governor, coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel 79 and any other minerals that may be found in the lands under the jurisdiction and control of the 80 director, except those lands that are designated as state parks. The director, before making sale 81 or lease thereof, shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code, 82 83 and the publication area for such publication shall be each county in which such lands are located. 84 The minerals so advertised shall be sold or leased to the highest responsible bidder, who shall 85 give bond for the proper performance of the sales contract or lease as the director shall designate; 86 but the director shall have the right to reject any and all bids and to readvertise for bids. The 87 proceeds arising from any such sale or lease shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall be credited to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter; 88 89 (15) Exercise the powers granted by this chapter for the protection of forests and regulate 90 fires and smoking in the woods or in their proximity at such times and in such localities as may be 91 necessary to reduce the danger of forest fires;

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92 (16) Cooperate with departments and agencies of state, local and federal governments in
93 the conservation of natural resources and the beautification of the state;

94 (17) Report to the Governor each year all information relative to the operation and 95 functions of the division and the director shall make such other reports and recommendations as 96 may be required by the Governor, including an annual financial report covering all receipts and 97 disbursements of the division for each fiscal year, and he or she shall deliver such report to the 98 Governor on or before December 1, next after the end of the fiscal year so covered. A copy of 99 such report shall be delivered to each house of the Legislature when convened in January next 100 following;

(18) Keep a complete and accurate record of all proceedings, record and file all bonds
and contracts taken or entered into and assume responsibility for the custody and preservation of
all papers and documents pertaining to his or her office, except as otherwise provided by law;

(19) Offer and pay, in his or her discretion, rewards for information respecting the violation,
or for the apprehension and conviction of any violators, of any of the provisions of this chapter;

(20) Require such reports as he or she may deem to be necessary from any person issued
a license or permit under the provisions of this chapter, but no person shall be required to disclose
secret processes or confidential data of competitive significance;

(21) Purchase as provided by law all equipment necessary for the conduct of the division;
(22) Conduct and encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses
of the natural resources of this state and to publicize the findings of such research;

(23) Encourage and cooperate with other public and private organizations or groups intheir efforts to publicize the attractions of the state;

(24) Accept and expend, without the necessity of appropriation by the Legislature, any gift
or grant of money made to the division for any and all purposes specified in this chapter and he
or she shall account for and report on all such receipts and expenditures to the Governor;

117 (25) Cooperate with the state historian and other appropriate state agencies in conducting

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research with reference to the establishment of state parks and monuments of historic, scenic
and recreational value and to take such steps as may be necessary in establishing such
monuments or parks as he or she deems advisable;

(26) Maintain in his or her office at all times, properly indexed by subject matter and also
 in chronological sequence, all rules made or issued under the authority of this chapter. Such
 records shall be available for public inspection on all business days during the business hours of
 working days;

(27) Delegate the powers and duties of his or her office, except the power to execute
contracts not related to land and stream management, to appointees and employees of the
division, who shall act under the direction and supervision of the director and for whose acts he
or she shall be responsible;

(28) Conduct schools, institutions and other educational programs, apart from or in
 cooperation with other governmental agencies, for instruction and training in all phases of the
 natural resources programs of the state;

(29) Authorize the payment of all or any part of the reasonable expenses incurred by an
employee of the division in moving his or her household furniture and effects as a result of a
reassignment of the employee: *Provided*, That no part of the moving expenses of any one such
employee shall be paid more frequently than once in twelve months; and

(30) Promulgate rules, in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this
code, to implement and make effective the powers and duties vested in him or her by the
provisions of this chapter and take such other steps as may be necessary in his or her discretion
for the proper and effective enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5. Unlawful methods of hunting and fishing and other unlawful acts; <u>authorizing</u> <u>Sunday hunting on private property.</u>

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(a) Except as authorized by the director or by law, it is unlawful at any time for any person

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2 to:

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(1) Shoot at any wild bird or wild animal unless it is plainly visible;

4 (2) Dig out, cut out, smoke out, or in any manner take or attempt to take any live wild
5 animal or wild bird out of its den or place of refuge;

6 (3) Use or attempt to use any artificial light or any night vision technology, including image 7 intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination while hunting, locating, attracting, taking, 8 trapping or killing any wild bird or wild animal: *Provided*, That it is lawful to hunt or take coyote, 9 fox, raccoon, opossum or skunk by the use of artificial light or night vision technology. Any person 10 violating this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall for each 11 offense be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, and shall be confined in jail for not less 12 than ten days nor more than one hundred days;

(4) Hunt, take, kill, wound or shoot at wild animals or wild birds from an airplane or other
airborne conveyance, a drone or other unmanned aircraft, an automobile or other land
conveyance, or from a motor-driven water conveyance;

(5) Use a drone or other unmanned aircraft to hunt, take or kill a wild bird or wild animal,
or to use a drone or other unmanned aircraft to drive or herd any wild bird or wild animal for the
purposes of hunting, trapping or killing;

19 (6) Take any beaver or muskrat by any means other than a trap;

20 (7) Catch, capture, take, hunt or kill by seine, net, bait, trap or snare or like device a bear,
21 wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant or quail;

(8) Intentionally destroy or attempt to destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird or have inhis or her possession the nest or eggs;

(9) Carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods of this state with the followingpermissible exceptions:

26 (A) A person in possession of a valid license or permit during open firearms hunting
 27 season for wild animals and nonmigratory wild birds;

(B) A person hunting or taking unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds and
 migratory wild birds during the open season, in the open fields, open water and open marshes of
 the state;

31 (C) A person carrying a firearm pursuant to sections six and six-a of this article; or

32 (D) A person carrying a firearm for self defense who is not prohibited from possessing
 33 firearms by section seven, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code;

34 (10) Have in his or her possession a crossbow with a nocked bolt, or a rifle or shotgun with cartridges that have not been removed or a magazine that has not been detached, in or on 35 36 any vehicle or conveyance, or its attachments. For the purposes of this section, a rifle or shotgun 37 whose magazine readily detaches is considered unloaded if the magazine is detached and no 38 cartridges remain in the rifle or shotgun itself. Except that between five o'clock post meridian of 39 day one and seven o'clock ante meridian, Eastern Standard Time, of the following day, any 40 unloaded firearm or crossbow may be carried only when in a case or taken apart and securely 41 wrapped. During the period from July 1 to September 30, inclusive, of each year, the requirements 42 relative to carrying unloaded firearms are permissible only from eight-thirty o'clock post meridian 43 to five o'clock ante meridian, Eastern Standard Time: Provided, That the time periods for carrying 44 unloaded and uncased firearms are extended for one hour after the post meridian times and one 45 hour before the ante meridian times established in this subdivision, if a person is transporting or 46 transferring the firearms to or from a hunting site, campsite, home or other abode;

(11) Hunt, catch, take, kill, trap, injure or pursue with firearms or other implement by which wildlife may be taken after the hour of five o'clock ante meridian on Sunday on private land without the written consent of the landowner any wild animals or wild birds except when a big game season opens on a Monday, the Sunday prior to that opening day will be closed for any taking of wild animals or birds after five o'clock ante meridian on that Sunday: *Provided*, That traps previously and legally set may be tended after the hour of five o'clock ante meridian on Sunday and the person tending the traps may carry firearms for the purpose of humanely dispatching

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54 trapped animals. Any person violating this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon 55 conviction thereof, in addition to any fines that may be imposed by this or other sections of this 56 code, is subject to a \$100 fine;

57 (12) Hunt, catch, take, kill, injure or pursue a wild animal or wild bird with the use of a 58 ferret;

59 (13) Buy raw furs, pelts or skins of fur-bearing animals unless licensed to do so;

60 (14) Catch, take, kill or attempt to catch, take or kill any fish by any means other than by
61 rod, line and hooks with natural or artificial lures: *Provided,* That snaring of any species of suckers,
62 carp, fallfish and creek chubs is lawful;

(15) Employ, hire, induce or persuade, with money, things of value or by any means, any
person to hunt, take, catch or kill any wild animal or wild bird except those species in which there
is no closed season; or to fish for, catch, take or kill any fish, amphibian or aquatic life that is
protected by rule, or the sale of which is otherwise prohibited;

67 (16) Hunt, catch, take, kill, capture, pursue, transport, possess or use any migratory game
68 or nongame birds except as permitted by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U. S. C. §703, *et seq.*,
69 and its regulations;

(17) Kill, take, catch, sell, transport or have in his or her possession, living or dead, any
wild bird other than a game bird including the plumage, skin or body of any protected bird,
irrespective of whether the bird was captured in or out of this state, except the English or European
sparrow (Passer domesticus), starling (Sturnus vulgaris) and cowbird (Molothrus ater), which may
be killed at any time;

(18) Use dynamite, explosives or any poison in any waters of the state for the purpose of
killing or taking fish. Any person violating this subdivision is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction
thereof, shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not less than six months nor more
than three years, or both fined and imprisoned;

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(19) Have a bow and gun, or have a gun and any arrow, in the fields or woods at the same

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80 time;

(20) Have a crossbow in the woods or fields, or use a crossbow to hunt for, take or attempt
to take any wildlife except as otherwise provided in sections five-g and forty-two-w of this article;
(21) Take or attempt to take turkey, bear, elk or deer with any arrow unless the arrow is
equipped with a point having at least two sharp cutting edges measuring in excess of three fourths
of an inch wide;

86 (22) Take or attempt to take any wildlife with an arrow having an explosive head or shaft,
87 a poisoned arrow or an arrow which would affect wildlife by any chemical action;

88 (23) Shoot an arrow across any public highway;

89 (24) Permit any dog owned or under his or her control to chase, pursue or follow the tracks 90 of any wild animal or wild bird, day or night, between May 1 and August 15: Provided, That dogs 91 may be trained on wild animals and wild birds, except deer and wild turkeys, and field trials may 92 be held or conducted on the grounds or lands of the owner, or by his or her bona fide tenant, or 93 upon the grounds or lands of another person with his or her written permission, or on public lands 94 at any time. Nonresidents may not train dogs in this state at any time except during the legal small 95 game hunting season. A person training dogs may not have firearms or other implements in his 96 or her possession during the closed season on wild animals and wild birds:

97 (25) Conduct or participate in a trial, including a field trial, shoot-to-retrieve field trial, water 98 race or wild hunt: *Provided*, That any person, group of persons, club or organization may hold a 99 trial upon obtaining a permit pursuant to section fifty-six of this article. The person responsible for 100 obtaining the permit shall prepare and keep an accurate record of the names and addresses of 101 all persons participating in the trial and make the records readily available for inspection by any 102 natural resources police officer upon request;

103 (26) Hunt, catch, take, kill or attempt to hunt, catch, take or kill any wild animal, wild bird
104 or wild fowl except during open seasons; <u>and</u>

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(27) Hunting on public lands on Sunday after five o'clock ante meridian is prohibited;

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| 106 | (28) Hunt, catch, take, kill, trap, injure or pursue with firearms or other implement which |
|--|--|
| 107 | wildlife can be taken, on private lands on Sunday after the hour of five o'clock ante meridian: |
| 108 | Provided, That the provisions of this subdivision do not apply in any county until the county |
| 109 | commission of the county holds an election on the question of whether the provisions of this |
| 110 | subdivision prohibiting hunting on Sunday shall apply within the county and the voters approve |
| 111 | the allowance of hunting on Sunday in the county. The election is determined by a vote of the |
| 112 | resident voters of the county in which the hunting on Sunday is proposed to be authorized. The |
| 113 | county commission of the county in which Sunday hunting is proposed shall give notice to the |
| 114 | public of the election by publication of the notice as a Class II-0 legal advertisement in compliance |
| 115 | with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code and the publication area for the |
| 116 | publication is the county in which the election is to be held. The date of the last publication of the |
| 117 | notice shall fall on a date within the period of the fourteen consecutive days next preceding the |
| 118 | election. |
| | |
| 119 | On the local option election ballot shall be printed the following: |
| 119 120 | On the local option election ballot shall be printed the following: Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land |
| | |
| 120 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land |
| 120 121 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner in County? |
| 120 121 122 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner in County? |
| 120 121 122 123 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner in County? [] Yes [] No |
| 120 121 122 123 124 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner in County? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) |
| 120 121 122 123 124 125 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner in County? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed authorization of Sunday |
| 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner inCounty? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed authorization of Sunday hunting within a county shall be in accordance with procedures adopted by the commission. The |
| 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner inCounty? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed authorization of Sunday hunting within a county shall be in accordance with procedures adopted by the commission. The local option election may be held in conjunction with a primary or general election or at a special |
| 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner inCounty? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed authorization of Sunday hunting within a county shall be in accordance with procedures adopted by the commission. The local option election may be held in conjunction with a primary or general election or at a special election. Approval shall be by a majority of the voters casting votes on the question of approval |
| 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 | Shall hunting on Sunday be authorized on private lands only with the consent of the land owner inCounty? [] Yes [] No (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.) Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed authorization of Sunday hunting within a county shall be in accordance with procedures adopted by the commission. The local option election may be held in conjunction with a primary or general election or at a special election. Approval shall be by a majority of the voters casting votes on the question of approval or disapproval of Sunday hunting at the election. |

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132 the action may not be held for a period of five years. A local option election may thereafter be 133 held if a written petition of qualified voters residing within the county equal to at least five percent 134 of the number of persons who were registered to vote in the next preceding general election is 135 received by the county commission of the county in which Sunday hunting is authorized. The 136 petition may be in any number of counterparts. The election shall take place at the next primary 137 or general election scheduled more than ninety days following receipt by the county commission 138 of the petition required by this subsection: Provided, That the issue may not be placed on the 139 ballot until all statutory notice requirements have been met. No local law or regulation providing 140 any penalty, disability, restriction, regulation or prohibition of Sunday hunting may be enacted and 141 the provisions of this article preempt all regulations, rules, ordinances and laws of any county or 142 municipality in conflict with this subdivision. 143 Amendments to this subdivision promulgated during the 2015 regular session of the 144 Legislature shall have no effect upon the results of elections held prior to their enactment; and 145 (29) (27) Hunt or conduct hunts for a fee when the person is not physically present in the 146 same location as the wildlife being hunted within West Virginia. 147 (b) Except in counties that have previously rejected by way of a referendum permitting 148 Sunday hunting on private lands, it is lawful to hunt throughout the State of West Virginia on

149 private lands on Sundays after the hour of five o'clock ante meridian with the written consent of 150 the private landowner: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subdivision do not apply in any county 151 if the county commission of the county holds an election on the question of whether the provisions 152 of this subdivision permitting hunting on Sunday shall apply within the county and the voters 153 approve the prohibition of hunting on Sunday in the county. The election is determined by a vote 154 of the resident voters of the county in which the prohibition of hunting on Sunday is proposed to 155 be authorized. The county commission of the county in which the prohibition of Sunday hunting 156 is proposed shall give notice to the public of the election by publication of the notice as a Class 157 II-0 legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this

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- 158 <u>code and the publication area for the publication is the county in which the election is to be held.</u>
- 159 The date of the last publication of the notice shall fall on a date within the period of the fourteen
- 160 <u>consecutive days next preceding the election.</u>
- 161 On the local option election ballot shall be printed the following:
- 162 Shall hunting on Sunday be prohibited on private lands in _____ County?
- 163 [] Yes
- 164 [] No
- 165 (Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.)
- 166 Any local option election to approve or disapprove of the proposed prohibition on Sunday
- 167 <u>hunting within a county shall be in accordance with procedures adopted by the commission. The</u>
- 168 local option election may be held in conjunction with a primary or general election or at a special
- 169 <u>election. Approval shall be by a majority of the voters casting votes on the question of approval</u>
- 170 or disapproval of prohibiting Sunday hunting at the election.
- 171 If a majority votes in favor of prohibiting Sunday hunting, an election on the issue may not be held for a period of one hundred four weeks. If a majority votes against prohibiting Sunday 172 173 hunting, an election reconsidering the action may not be held for a period of five years. A local 174 option election may thereafter be held if a written petition of qualified voters residing within the 175 county equal to at least five percent of the number of persons who were registered to vote in the 176 next preceding general election is received by the county commission of the county in which 177 Sunday hunting is prohibited. The petition may be in any number of counterparts. The election 178 shall take place at the next primary or general election scheduled more than ninety days following 179 receipt by the county commission of the petition required by this subsection: Provided, That the 180 issue may not be placed on the ballot until all statutory notice requirements have been met. If 181 voters disapprove of the referendum prohibiting Sunday hunting, no local law or regulation 182 providing any penalty, disability, restriction, regulation or prohibition of Sunday hunting may be enacted and the provisions of this article preempt all regulations, rules, ordinances and laws of 183

- 184 any county or municipality in conflict with this subdivision.
- 185 (c) In any county in which it is lawful to hunt on private lands on Sundays pursuant to
- 186 <u>subsection (b) of this section, it shall be lawful to hunt on public lands where hunting is generally</u>
- 187 permissible: *Provided*, That hunting on public lands is prohibited in counties where voters have
- 188 previously rejected by way of a referendum permitting Sunday hunting on private lands.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require that open hunting season for big game begin on a Saturday; remove certain restrictions on hunting; permit Sunday hunting on private property throughout the state with written consent of the landowner; create a ballot measure permitting counties to prohibit Sunday hunting on private land if a majority of voters within the county approve the prohibition; and permit Sunday hunting on certain public lands in counties where private hunting on Sunday is permitted.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.