

## ⭐Sportsmen's Capitol Update

1 message

**Friends of CT Sportsmen** <friendsofctsportsmen@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: friendsofctsportsmen@gmail.com  
To: news@rockvillefishandgameclub.com

Wed, Feb 22, 2023 at 7:04 PM



February 22, 2023

## Sportsmen's Capitol Update

Friends: Click on the red button to download the latest bill report as of today, February 22, 2023. Note that bills not raised by the deadline (most last week) have been removed. However, some bills will continue rewritten and numbered as Committee bills, like black bear and Sunday hunting bills.

### Bill Report February 22, 2023

**NEW!** There is a public hearing tomorrow, February 23 in the **Public Safety Committee**, beginning at 11:00 A.M. in Room 1B of the LOB. See the full [Agenda](#). The bills below are in the full bill report (above). You can submit testimony [HERE](#) if you'd like. Also, you can watch the hearing on the Public Safety YouTube Channel [HERE](#).

[SB 967 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROCEDURES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS OF PISTOL PERMIT APPLICANTS.](#)

[SB 973 AN ACT AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY RECORDS TO EVALUATE A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF A FIREARM TO A PERSON UNDER AGE TWENTY-ONE](#)

[HB 5360 AN ACT REQUIRING FIREARM INCIDENT REPORTS FROM POLICE OFFICERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUCH DATA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION](#)

[HB 6684 AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS FROM PROVISIONS ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.](#)

## Environment Committee

The Environment Committee met last Friday, February 17th to vote bills out of Committee and to the Floor. [HERE](#) is the Agenda from the meeting and [HERE](#) is a link to the YouTube video of the meeting.

**The Environment Committee will hold its third public hearing of the Session on Monday, February**

27th at 11:00 AM at the LOB or tune in live (or later on demand) via the [Environment Committee's YouTube Channel](#). You can access the full Public Hearing Agenda [HERE](#).

You will see that there are no bills that have a direct nexus with sportsmen's issues on Monday's agenda. However, if you would like to submit testimony or testify on any of these bills, please [email Julie at friends of ctsportsmen@gmail.com](#) to get additional links and instructions for submitting testimony and signing up to testify on Monday.

The next Environment Committee Meeting to vote bills out of Committee will be on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM in room 2B of the LOB. The agenda for the meeting will be posted [HERE](#) by March 2nd at 5PM. and you may watch the meeting live or on demand on the [Environment Committee's YouTube Channel](#).

## Sunday Hunting and Bear Update

As you know, the concept bills for Sunday hunting and black bears were raised on February 15th (see [agenda](#)), but the bill numbers and text have not yet been published. You will get that information as soon as it becomes available. These bills are NOT on the agenda for Monday's up-coming public hearing so the earliest these bills will have a public hearing is the week of March 6th, either Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Note that all bills must be voted out of Committee by March 27th.

## How Wildlife Is Thriving Because of Guns & Hunting



Your participation starts by knowing your legislators. Find them by clicking on the box to the right and entering your address.

**FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS**

## The World Is Run By Those Who Show Up

The following article is from [The Hunting Wire](#), February 21, 2023, by Ryan Brown - Executive Director, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Nowhere does the adage "the world is run by those who show up" ring any truer than it in the hunting policy world.

Across the country, our sport is enjoyed by millions. We take to the woods and the fields for our reasons. Still, often a common theme is recreation and escape from the drudgeries of work life or whatever other responsibilities occupy our time. So, it's completely understandable that a good number of us likewise maximize the time we dedicate to the sport by devoting it to researching the latest gear, scouting, or being outdoors during the season.

But, within that allocation of time lies a big assumption. When we leave the woods at the end of each

season, we can look forward to the next with the expectation that the rules governing our sport will be unchanged. Sure, adjustments may be made to bag limits or the like based on what the management science dictates, but that's what our license dollars pay biologists for, right? Subject to those necessary tweaks, and the passage of another year, we have confidence that our plans for the following season can roughly track those for the previous.

We don't always consider that public agencies and legislatures perform our wildlife management through public processes. Along with science, our decisions are informed by public input and various social science considerations. There are often multiple ways to achieve a biological goal—think of achieving population goals through either expanded bag limits, adjustment to any possible seasons, or some combination thereof. This means that is selected largely depends upon the perceived desires of the community. And there are many rules and in some cases, management goals that are strongly informed by social science considerations. Think in this case of the overall desirable population level of certain game species on the landscape (a concept we call "cultural carrying capacity") or rules guiding the use of hunting equipment that may not necessarily impact overall harvest numbers but most certainly impacts the hunting community's collective view of the concept of fair chase or other principles.

Our fish and wildlife agencies are set up for public input and informing of the decision-making process, as is dictated by the North American Model of Wildlife Management's tenet supporting democratic management. Across the country, comments are solicited on what regulatory changes should be considered, meetings are held for those wishing to speak, and open votes are taken on any changes. Our state legislatures function similarly, with annual sessions of bills being considered by committees inviting public testimony and open opportunities for constituents to contact their elected representatives. In each case, successful or not, the goal is for the public to have the opportunity to express their views on policy changes.

Yet, with all the energy focused on ensuring the public is invited to weigh in on our political processes affecting our rights and interests as hunters, one key group is often missing—the hunters themselves.

By my count, I am currently in my 17th legislative session in my state, and I can count on slightly more than one hand the number of times that more than a few representing hunting interests were present at legislative committee meetings. More often, I see the same few faces, year in and year out; small enough in number that I look around the room and note how we've each aged over the years. This is despite legislation that at times would have dramatic impacts on our sport. What for agency regulatory processes? We are better there; our biennial wildlife regulation review can net 1000-2000 written comments. That sounds encouraging until you consider that Virginia is home to approximately 200,000 licensees, and counting license-exempt hunters, an estimated 400,000 people participate in hunting annually, according to a past National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Add to that a recognition that not all of those submitting comments are hunters, driving the percentage of hunters who participate even further down, and factor in that it is a rarity to have more than a slight few public speakers show for agency board meetings.

Wildlife managers know that this sparse participation is not due to a lack of interest—one needs only to check social media or various message boards to see that the hunting public is very interested in their sport. And these avenues of conversing with each other and sharing views have their place in driving interest in the sport and connecting. They are not, however, a means of getting information to decision-makers. Many hunting-based organizations are thriving and serve as key partners to the agency in our conservation efforts. They do a great job representing their members and speaking up, and I strongly encourage membership and support of those of your choice—but they can't be expected to do it alone. Likewise, your fish and wildlife agency does its best to represent your interests in the legislative halls and to get it right in agency-based decisions. Still, it is one voice among many, at times has political constraints on its positions (and at the very least, has to balance many interests), and perhaps most importantly, lacks one valuable characteristic that each person reading this article possesses—not being an individual, it cannot be a voting constituent of legislators, a voice that they strongly consider in determining their votes.

In today's world, "one person can make a difference" is more than a clever saying made to schoolchildren to encourage future participation in their government. It is a reality in decisions that affect our future as hunters in this country. While there may be something endearing about that thought, a much more appealing future for our sport will lie in all hunters taking the time to make their voices heard. This season and those in the future, if you want to give back to your passion, help guide and protect its future, and maybe even help bring about some change that you find advisable, I urge you to participate. Take the time to check agency websites and social media for public comment opportunities, and attend a board or legislative committee hearing to see decisions being made firsthand (in many cases, including Virginia, this can now be done remotely if in-person is not an option to you), and submit your views to solicitations for input (this can require as little as a few minutes through agency comment websites; slightly more than

that if you wish to speak at a meeting).

The hunting community has historically played a very active role in managing our resources. Maybe we've lost some of that because of our collective success with game populations and opportunities. In a world of expanding human populations and often a corresponding decrease in the percentage of the citizens familiar with our sport, however, our future depends on an engaged hunting public.

**Help support FoCS advocacy efforts**

**Donate**

**Follow us on Facebook**



## Resources

[Legislative Committee Deadline Matrix](#)

[Guide to Testifying at Hearings and Reaching State Legislators](#)

Friends of CT Sportsmen | P.O. Box 2351, Shelton, CT 06484

Unsubscribe [news@rockvillefishandgameclub.com](mailto:news@rockvillefishandgameclub.com)

[Update Profile](#) | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by [friendsofctsportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofctsportsmen@gmail.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!