

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MARCH 2021  
as of March 31**

**AT THE STATE LEVEL**

**PA SENATE**

*This piece of legislation should prove to be controversial.*

**SENATE BILL. Proposed, Not introduced. *Repealing Sunday Hunting Prohibition in Pennsylvania.***

On March 23, Senator Dan Laughlin (R), Erie, issued a memorandum requesting co-sponsors for his proposed legislation. Senator Laughlin is the Chair of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee. The memo states, in part, *“In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would completely remove the prohibition on Sundays available for hunting and trapping. Currently, the law dictates which Sundays are open to hunting, and in certain cases, which species. This legislation would change that and would leave all wildlife management decisions to the Game Commission.”*

**SB429. *Firearms Registry.*** Would address public safety and gun ownership accountability through registration of firearms in the Commonwealth to make essential information available to law enforcement for purposes of tracing crime, as well as reduce illegal firearms sales by creating owner accountability. Williams (D) Delaware and Philadelphia Counties. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 15.

**SB431. *Authorizing the Sale of Antlerless Deer Licenses Through the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System.*** Would allow for the sale of antlerless deer hunting licenses through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System.

Laughlin (R), Erie County. Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, March 18.

**SB448. *Pennsylvania Preemption Statute Regarding Firearms and Ammunition.*** Would prevent local jurisdictions from imposing ordinances more restrictive than laws passed by the General Assembly. Langerholc (R), Bedford, Cambria and Clearfield Counties. Referred to LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 18.

## **PA HOUSE**

**HB696. *Gun Violence Prevention Grants.*** Would create the Violence Intervention Program (VIP), a competitive grant program, awarded from a fund of \$30 million for three years, administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for municipalities that have been disproportionately impacted by violence.

Bullock (D), Philadelphia County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 1.

**HB702. *Gun Show Loophole.*** Would require that all firearm sales, including long guns, be conducted in front of a licensed dealer or a sheriff. Familial transfers would still be excluded from the background check requirement. Additionally, this legislation would add a provision to allow for a single background check that would remain valid for 48 hours for use at gun shows across the Commonwealth.

Parker (D), Philadelphia County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 1.

**HB717. *Banning the Sale or Possession of Assault Weapons for Individuals Under 21.*** Would prohibit the sale or possession of assault weapons for individuals under the age of 21.

Schweyer (D), Lehigh County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 1.

**HB737. *Prohibiting Firearms at Polling Places.*** Would make it a misdemeanor of the third degree for knowingly possessing a firearm in a polling place.

Daley (D), Montgomery County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 3.

**HB770. *Assault Weapons Ban.*** Would effectively ban the possession, purchase, transfer, use or manufacture of an assault weapon.

Gainey (D) Allegheny County (Wilkesburg). Referred to JUDICIARY, March 4.

**HB785. *Protecting Children from Accidental Gun Injuries and Deaths.*** Would require the safe storage of firearms in homes where children may be present.

Briggs (D), Montgomery County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 8.

**HB869. *Prohibiting Weapons at Public Demonstrations.*** Would make it unlawful for a person participating in or attending a public demonstration to possess a firearm or other dangerous article.

Kinsey (D), Philadelphia County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 11.

**HB872. *Firearm Safety Training.*** Purchasers would be required to take a written objective test covering firearm laws and safety. If an individual passes the test, a purchaser would be provided a firearm safety certificate which would be valid for five years. If an individual fails to pass the test, he or she may retake the test 24 hours later after receiving additional firearm training from the instructor. Kinsey (D) and Parker (D), Philadelphia County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 11, 2021

**HB913. *Remove the Current Antler Restrictions for Senior Hunters.*** Would remove the current antler restrictions for senior hunters, Specifically, would allow senior license holders statewide to harvest antlered deer with at least two points one side, or a spike antler at least three inches in length. Maloney (R), Berks County. Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, March 15.

**HB917. *Disguised Firearm Ban.*** Would ban disguised firearms in Pennsylvania--a term applied to a weapon which is disguised to look like a pen or to any single-shot firing device of tubular appearance. Other popular disguised weapons include the cigarette lighter gun, knife gun, cane gun, and umbrella gun. Zabel (D), Delaware County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 15.

**HB924. *Remove Character and Reputation from License to Carry Firearms Application.*** Under current law, a sheriff can unilaterally deny a LTCF application for a concealed firearm for “character and reputation” or other “good cause”. This legislation would remove the “character and reputation” provision. Davanzo (R), Westmoreland County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 15.

**HB946. *Concealed Firearms License Fee Waiver.*** Will permit the governing body of a county, after consultation with the sheriff, to waive the fee that is imposed for the issuance of a license to carry a concealed firearm, where the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran or a person who is 65 years of age or older. Zimmerman (R), Lancaster County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 17.

**HB979. *Preemption Legislation.*** This legislation would provide that any party who successfully challenges one of these illegal local firearm ordinances will be entitled to reimbursement from the offending jurisdiction for their reasonable attorneys. fees and costs to bring the lawsuit.

Dowling (R), Fayette and Somerset Counties. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 19.

**HB980. *Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms.*** Would require any owner or other person lawfully in possession of a firearm who suffers the loss or theft of a weapon to report it to law enforcement within 72 hours of the discovery.

Sanchez (D), Montgomery and Kenyatta (D), Philadelphia Counties. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 19.

**HB981. *Ban on Multi-Burst Trigger Activators.*** Would include “multiburst trigger activators” to the list of offensive weapons and includes items such as binary triggers and slide fire/bump stocks. Sanchez (D), Montgomery County. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 19.

**HB1007. *Firearms Transfers During PICS Outages.*** Would allow dealers to complete transactions absent the completion of an instantaneous records check when PICS is experiencing technical difficulties when the purchaser presents a valid Pennsylvania License to Carry a Firearm, often called a Concealed Carry Permit.

Metzgar (R), Somerset and Bedford Counties. Referred to JUDICIARY, March 24.