

1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 648

Offered January 20, 1997

Requesting the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to study the hunting of wildlife on Sundays.

Patron—Dudley

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Virginians have been prohibited from hunting on Sundays for over 70 years; and

WHEREAS, one of the reasons for not allowing Sunday hunting, in the words of the statute, is to provide "a rest day for all species of wild bird and wild animal life"; and

WHEREAS, for those individuals who work six days a week, Sunday is the only opportunity to pursue outdoor recreational activities such as hunting; and

WHEREAS, by prohibiting Sunday hunting, Virginia duck hunters have fewer days to hunt waterfowl during federally established waterfowl seasons; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of states permit Sunday hunting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries be requested to study the hunting of wildlife on Sundays. The study shall determine (i) if there are biological or wildlife management reasons for prohibiting Sunday hunting, (ii) if there would be additional enforcement or management costs incurred, and (iii) whether or not additional revenue would be generated for the Department and hunting-related businesses.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for this study, upon request.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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