

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7231

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING.

**Vote Date:** 3/28/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/24/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment Committee

### **Co-Sponsors:**

Rep. Patrick E. Callahan

Rep. Patrick S. Boyd, 50<sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Currently, hunting in the state is banned on Sundays in locations where it is otherwise permitted during the rest of the week. Allowing hunting on Sundays would provide another day for hunters to practice their activities.

### **Substitute Language LCO 6923**

The substitute language replaced the underlying bill, which would have allowed Sunday hunting generally, as on any other day of the week.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**

DEEP supports HB 7231 allowing hunting on Sundays in the same state forests and wildlife management areas that hunting is allowed in now. During hunting season, hunters and non-hunters have safely enjoyed outdoor recreation on public lands in Connecticut. There has been a 27% decline in hunting and "available time" is cited as the most limiting factor. There are strict regulated harvest limits, so Sunday hunting is not expected to adversely impact the sustainability of the wildlife population.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy for Connecticut, National Audubon Society**

The Audubon Society supports HB 7231 if it doesn't expand into the Sundays during the CBC season which is when thousands participate in helping conduct the collection of data to detect and better understand changes in bird species habitat ranges and population size.

### **Cyrus Hunter Baird, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Delta Waterfowl Foundation**

The Delta Waterfowl Foundation supports HB 7231. The sportsmen and women help pay for most of the conservation funding in Connecticut. The funds are from purchasing hunting licenses, permits tags and migratory waterfowl stamps. DEEP depends on these funds for species conservation. Hunters continue to be one of the only user group activities discriminated against on Sunday. Lack of time is the number reason that hunters stop hunting. People opposing this legislation argue that non-hunters need one day from hunters on Sundays due to perceived safety concerns of hunters and non-hunters occupying the same outdoor areas even though those arguments are not supported by any data.

### **Many Rod and Gun Clubs sent in similar Testimony in favor of HB 7231**

The following groups support Sunday Hunting on the grounds that it is allowed in over 40 States, the current law is discriminatory, and safety concerns are unfounded:

**Brian Bird, Chapter Coordinator, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers**  
**Dudley Brand, Hunter Ed Instructor, Manchester Coon & Fox Club**  
**Chas Catania, Friends of CT Sportsman**  
**Thomas Donlon, Wallingford Rod & Gun Club**  
**Michael Fusco, Harwinton Rod & Gun Club**  
**Laird Hamberlin, CEO, Safari Club International**  
**William Hyatt, Vice-Chair, The Connecticut Fisheries Advisory Council**  
**Chris Marino, Vice President, NW CT Sportsman's Council**  
**Christina Ragosta, Assistant Manager, Northeastern States, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.**  
**Brian Reynolds, Vice President, Naugatuck Fish & Game Club**  
**Gary Sylvestre, Board of Directors, East Glastonbury Fish & Game Club**

### **200 Residents sent in Testimony in Support of HB 7231**

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

### **Samantha Dynowski, State Director, Sierra Club Connecticut**

The Sierra Club opposes allowing Sunday hunting in Connecticut. They feel it is very important to keep one day a week when people can hike, picnic, birding or simply appreciate the outdoors without worrying about whether someone is hunting nearby. Hunting 6 out of 7 days should cover the rights of hunters.

**Alan J. Siniscalchi, President, CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission**

CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commission opposes HB 7231 not because of hunting but that their member conservation commissioners have valued the ability to enter wooded lands, wetland, and other space habitats to conduct scientific studies on Sundays. On Sundays, they can conduct wildlife surveillance free from the noise of firearm discharges which will scatter birds and other animals and adversely affect surveillance counts.

**Many Organizations sent in Testimony Opposing HB 7231**

The following groups oppose HB 7231 because they believe there should be one day during the week that the residents of Connecticut can safely enjoy outdoor activities with out the fear of running into hunters during hunting season:

**Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters**

**Nicole, Bruck, Founder & Director, Animals-R-Family**

**Susan Eastland, Chapter Chair, Sierra Club Connecticut**

**Annie Hornish, CT State Director, Humane World for Animals**

**Susan Linker, President, CT Votes for Animals**

**50 Residents of Connecticut sent in Testimony in Opposition to HB 7231**

**Reported by: Judy Ganswindt**

**Date: April 11, 2025**