

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 677

Short Title: Protect Right to Hunt and Fish. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt, Brock, Sanderson (Primary Sponsors); and Tucker.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

June 7, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE  
3 RIGHT TO HUNT, FISH, AND HARVEST WILDLIFE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article I of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding a  
6 new section to read:

7 "**Sec. 38. Right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.**

8 The right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is a valued part of the State's  
9 heritage and shall be forever preserved for the public good. The people have a right, including  
10 the right to use traditional methods, to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, subject only to laws  
11 enacted by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the  
12 General Assembly to (i) promote wildlife conservation and management and (ii) preserve the  
13 future of hunting and fishing. Public hunting and fishing shall be a preferred means of  
14 managing and controlling wildlife. Nothing herein shall be construed to modify any provision  
15 of law relating to trespass or property rights."

16 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
17 the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2018,  
18 which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots,  
19 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.  
20 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

21 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

22 Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and  
23 harvest wildlife."

24 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
25 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the  
26 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so  
27 certified among the permanent records of that office. The amendment set out in Section 1 of  
28 this act becomes effective upon certification.

29 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

