



# SENATE BILL 677: Protect Right to Hunt and Fish.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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| <b>Committee:</b>     | House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | <b>Date:</b>        | June 21, 2018     |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sens. Britt, Sanderson, McInnis                    | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Jennifer McGinnis |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | Third Edition                                      |                     | Staff Attorney    |

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 677 would direct that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2018 to include language in the State's Constitution to provide that the people of the State have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, subject to certain limitations.*

**BILL ANALYSIS and CURRENT LAW:**

**Section 1** of the bill would direct that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2018 to include language in the State's Constitution to provide that the people of the State have a right, including the right to use traditional methods, to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, subject only to laws enacted by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly to (i) promote wildlife conservation and management and (ii) preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The amendment would explicitly provide, however, that the language "shall not be construed to modify any provision of law relating to public safety, trespass, property rights, eminent domain, or the regulation of commercial activities."

**Current law** provides that the marine and estuarine and wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole.<sup>i</sup> The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) are charged with stewardship of these resources.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would become effective when it becomes law.

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<sup>i</sup> [G.S. 113-131](#)

