SENATE BILL 677:
Protect Right to Hunt and Fish.

Committee:		**Date:**	June 26, 2018
Introduced by:		**Prepared by:**	Jennifer McGinnis
Analysis of:	S.L. 2018-96		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2018-96 directs 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:

The act directs 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. In addition, the amendment would provide that public hunting and fishing must be a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife, and provide that nothing in the language of the amendment "shall be construed to modify any provision of law relating to trespass, property rights, or eminent domain."

If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment, the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement must certify the amendment to the Secretary of State, and the amendment would be effective upon certification.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act became effective June 25, 2018.

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[i] G.S. 113-131

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