



HOUSE BILL 459: Lee County Deer Hunting.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Sauls	Prepared by:	Nicholas Giddings
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 459 would require the Wildlife Resources Commission for the Southeastern Region of North Carolina to set the seasons for hunting either sex deer with archery equipment, black powder, and guns in Lee County.*

CURRENT LAW: Counties in North Carolina are separated into the following geographic regions with regard to setting deer hunting seasons: Western Deer Zone, Northwestern Deer Zone, Central Deer Zone, Northeastern Deer Zone and Southeastern Deer Zone. Currently, Lee County is part of the Central Deer Zone.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 459 would require the Wildlife Resources Commission for the Southeastern Region of North Carolina to set the seasons for hunting either sex deer with archery equipment, black powder, and guns in Lee County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: In November 2018, the voters of this State approved an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution stating that it is the “right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is a valued part of the State's heritage and shall be forever preserved for the public good.” The amendment further provides that the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is subject only to laws enacted by the General Assembly to (i) promote wildlife conservation and management and (ii) preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The amendment also included language that it did not modify any provision of law relating to trespass, property rights, or eminent domain. At this time, no appellate court decisions have been issued to interpret this Section of the Constitution.

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