

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 1447

Short Title: Rockingham/Hunting on Private Land. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Berger of Rockingham.

Referred to: Finance.

May 27, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REGULATE HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING ON PRIVATE LAND IN  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** It is unlawful to enter upon private lands of another to hunt, fish, or trap with a firearm, crossbow, bow and arrow, or fishing or trapping equipment, or to possess such items upon the lands of another, without the permission of the owner or lessee of that land, as provided in this section. For land posted in accordance with the provisions of this act or G.S. 14-159.7, written permission is required, in the form described in this section. For nonposted lands, verbal permission is required.

**SECTION 1.(b)** The written permission required by this section shall state the date the permission is given, the person to whom the permission is given, and the owner or lessee of the land, and such written permission shall not be valid for a period in excess of one year, but may be valid for any shorter period stated in the permission.

**SECTION 1.(c)** The written permission required by this act shall be carried on the person at all times when the person enters the property of another to hunt, fish, or trap, or with the intent to hunt, fish, or trap. The written permission shall be displayed upon request to any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce this act.

**SECTION 1.(d)** If written permission to hunt is given to a hunt club by the owner or the lessee of land, each member of the hunt club shall carry a copy of the written permission along with a certification from the hunt club designating the person to be a member of that hunt club. Such written permission shall not be valid for a period in excess of one year, but may be valid for any shorter period stated in the permission.

**SECTION 1.(e)** Valid written permission under subsections (b) through (d) of this section may include permission to a named individual and a specified number of guests of that individual. Written permission is not required for the spouse and children of the owner or lessee of the land.

**SECTION 1.(f)** Landowners may, but are not required to, post their property by the methods specified in G.S. 14-159.7, or by placing identifying aluminum reflective paint marks on trees or posts at each road entrance and at such intervals as may be readily visible to persons approaching the property. If paint marks are used, those paint marks shall be at least two inches in width and eight inches in length, and the center of the mark shall be from three to six feet from the ground.

**SECTION 1.(g)** No person shall mutilate, destroy, or take down any "posted," "no hunting," or similar sign on the lands or waters of another without the consent of the landowner or lessee, and violations are punishable under G.S. 14-159.8.



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1           **SECTION 1.(h)** Violation of this section as to posted land is a Class 3  
2 misdemeanor and is punishable for a first offense by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty  
3 dollars (\$250.00) and for a second or subsequent offense by a fine of not more than two  
4 hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) or by imprisonment for 30 days, or both. Violation of this  
5 section as to nonposted land is a Class 3 misdemeanor and is punishable for a first offense by a  
6 fine of not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) and for a second or subsequent  
7 offense by a fine of not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) or by  
8 imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.

9           **SECTION 1.(i)** It is not a violation of this act for a hunter to retrieve a hunting dog  
10 that has strayed upon land that the hunter does not possess permission to hunt on so long as the  
11 hunter does not enter the property with a firearm or other hunting weapon. This subsection  
12 does not excuse repeated instances of dog retrieval without permission of the landowner.

13           **SECTION 2.(a)** It is unlawful to hunt upon the land of another while under the  
14 influence of alcohol. A person shall be deemed to be under the influence if that person has a  
15 blood alcohol concentration of .01 or greater as measured by an Alcosensor or any alcohol  
16 screening device approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for use by law  
17 enforcement officers in making on-the-scene tests of persons for alcohol concentration.  
18 Refusal to submit to a test shall be admissible as evidence in court.

19           **SECTION 2.(b)** It is unlawful to hunt upon the land of another while under the  
20 influence of any impairing substance other than alcohol by virtue of consuming a sufficient  
21 quantity of that substance so as to cause loss of normal control of bodily or mental faculties, or  
22 both, to such an extent that there is an appreciable impairment of either or both of these  
23 faculties. A person shall be deemed to be so impaired if that person tests positive for any  
24 amount of a Schedule I controlled substance under G.S. 90-89 or its metabolites in the person's  
25 blood or urine.

26           **SECTION 2.(c)** Violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor and is  
27 punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and imprisonment from 30  
28 days to six months, or both. Any person convicted of violating this section shall also be  
29 ordered to complete a hunter safety course approved by the Wildlife Resources Commission as  
30 described in G.S. 113-270.1A(b).

31           **SECTION 3.** This act is enforceable by law enforcement officers of the Wildlife  
32 Resources Commission, by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and by other law enforcement officers  
33 with general subject matter jurisdiction.

34           **SECTION 4.** This act applies only to Rockingham County.

35           **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2010, and applies to offenses  
36 committed on or after that date.