

## Bay State Strategies Monthly Report to MCA

August - October 2021

- BSSG is in the process of confirming meetings/discussions with:
  - Rep. Carolyn Dykema, Chair Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture (ENV). Likely the afternoon of 11/8. Time to be confirmed.
  - Sen. Michael Moore – Compact bill sponsor
  - Sen. Anne Gobi – Historic of supporter of MCA efforts
- Schedule meeting to refine our member list to target certain legislative districts.
- BSSG has had several conversations with members, staff, and others relative to MCA’s general priority issues and bills.

We expect that SB587 – An Act further Regulating the Enforcement of Illegal Hunting (“The Compact”) will soon emerge from the ENV Committee and likely go to the Ways and Means Committee. Based on conversation with Legislators it may provide an opportunity to work together on both the Compact and one or more of our legislative priorities.

- As you are likely aware, the Legislature returned from August recess and will stay in session thru mid-November before breaking for the Holidays.
- The State House remains closed due to the Covid pandemic. The latest expectation is that it would open early 2022, but there is no announced schedule yet. More to follow on this as it develops.
- “Reported” Top House priorities thru 2021: (i) Sports Betting; (ii) ARPA spending bill (iii) Health Care Reform, (iv) Redistricting
- “Reported” Top Senate Priorities thru 2021: (i) Voting reform, (ii) Mental Health Parity, (iii) ARPA spending bill, (iv) Redistricting.
- Below is a list of updated bills that we are tracking:

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**HB984 (HD915) - An Act relative to Sunday hunting**

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**Sponsor:** Rep. Kelly Pease (R)

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**Summary:** Repeals [GL 131:57](#), the statute prohibiting hunting on Sundays.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 04/13/2021  
**Action:** S - Concurred in committee referral

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**HB991 (HD2393) - An Act relative to the use of crossbows in hunting**

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**Sponsor:** Rep. William Smitty Pignatelli (D)

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**Summary:** Amends [GL Chapter 131](#) to allow the use of crossbows in hunting in accordance with regulations promulgated by the director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife; repeals existing prohibition against the use of such crossbows.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 04/13/2021  
**Action:** S - Concurred in committee referral

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**HB1029 (HD1795) - An Act relative to the use of shotgun ammunition for hunting**

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**Sponsor:** Rep. Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D)

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**Summary:** Amends [GL 131:66](#), the statute governing shotgun shells and load, to eliminate the explicit restrictions detailed therein and to simply state that such rules and regulations for the use and possession of shotgun ammunition types for the purposes of hunting are to be created by the director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife under control of the board.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 04/13/2021  
**Action:** S - Concurred in committee referral

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**HB1934 (HD1796) - An Act updating hunter harassment laws**

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**Sponsor:** Rep. Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D)

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**Summary:** Adds a new Section 5C to [GL Chapter 131](#) which guarantees the citizens of the commonwealth the right to harvest fish and wildlife free from harassment, subject to existing regulations; prohibits the obstruction, interfering with or preventing any lawful fishing or hunting where it is otherwise lawful; defines the listed behaviors as banned, including driving or disturbing fish or wildlife, blocking or impeding someone legally engaged in fishing or hunting, physical interference or trespass, and verbal harassment; imposes a term of imprisonment up to one year and/or a fine up to \$1,000; imposes a term of imprisonment up to two years and/or a fine up to \$5,000 for vandalism or destruction property used in legal

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fishing and hunting; imposes a term of imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine up to \$10,000 for causing bodily injury through harassment or vandalism intended to prevent hunting or fishing; prohibits posting private property as closed or restricted for hunting and fishing without the owner's permission; imposes a term of imprisonment up to one year and/or a fine up to \$1,000 for doing so; grants the superior court jurisdiction to enforce these rights; allows individuals hurt by violation of these rights to bring a civil action for damages; authorizes environmental and other police officers to enforce these provisions; deposits any fines collected into the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund to support the Hunter Education Program.

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**Status:** Judiciary

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**Last** 05/11/2021

**Action:** H - Hearing Scheduled  
[05/19/2021 10:00 AM - Public Hearing, Virtual Hearing](#)  
Judiciary

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#### **SB507 (SD1972) - An Act addressing noise issues of migratory game hunters near coastal dwellings**

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**Sponsor:** Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

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**Summary:** Amends [GL 131:58](#) (Shooting on or across Highway; Hunting Near Dwelling) to prohibit any persons hunting migratory game birds from a watercraft or any boat or floating device propelled by sail, steam, naphtha, gasoline, electricity, compressed air or similar motive power from discharging any firearm within one thousand feet of the coastal shoreline; amends [GL 131:65](#) (Hunting from Motor Vehicle, Snowmobile, Aircraft or Watercraft) to prohibit any watercraft used for hunting purposes from being within one thousand feet of the coastal shoreline.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 03/29/2021

**Action:** H - Concurred in committee referral

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#### **SB552 (SD2110) - An Act relative to hunting near a dwelling**

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**Sponsor:** Sen. Anne Gobi (D)

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**Summary:** Amends section 58 of Chapter 131 (shooting upon or across highway; hunting near dwelling) by providing for hunting with a bow and arrow from a tree stand at least 250 feet for a dwelling unless authorized by the owner occupant of the house.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 03/29/2021

**Action:** H - Concurred in committee referral

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**SB623 (SD1029) - An Act prohibiting the sale of fur products**

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**Sponsor:** Sen. John Velis (D)

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**Summary:** Adds new GL chapter 110I to prohibit (with some exceptions) the sale of fur products.

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**Status:** Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture

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**Last** 03/29/2021

**Action:** S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

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