

Bay State Strategies Report to MCA

January 2022

- BSSG has completed meetings and discussions with numerous legislators, including:
 - Rep. Carolyn Dykema, Chair Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture (ENV). **Rep. Dykema just announced that she is leaving the Legislature effective 2/11/22**
 - Sen. Michael Moore – Compact bill sponsor
 - Sen. Anne Gobi – Historic of supporter of MCA efforts
- Governor Baker filed his annual state budget recommendation last week and included language we support addressing Sunday Bow Hunting and Setbacks. The proposed language and a brief summary follow:

Section 60 -- Sunday Bow Hunting of Deer

Section 57 of chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- This section shall not prohibit the director, with the approval of the fisheries and wildlife board, from authorizing the hunting of deer by bow and arrow on any Sunday, and shall not render unlawful the possession or carrying of a bow and arrow for the purpose of hunting deer, as authorized by the director with the approval of the fisheries and wildlife board.

SUMMARY - *This section would allow for bow hunting for deer on Sundays.*

Section 61 -- Decreased Hunting Setbacks

Section 58 of said chapter 131, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following words:- , provided that a person may hunt with a bow and arrow not less than 250 feet from any dwelling in use.

SUMMARY - *This section would reduce bow hunting setbacks from a dwelling from the 500 feet to 250 feet to align with the setbacks in neighboring states.*

- BSSG and MCA met with Rep. David Muradian and Fish & Game Commissioner Ron Amidon in mid-January to discuss and develop a strategy for advancing our priority issues as part of the annual budget process. Our current strategy is as follows:
 - Send a press release in support of the Governor's proposed language to the State House News Service and Politico – **COMPLETED**
 - Begin discussions between MCA and Bill Baker of the Boston Globe – **COMPLETED**
 - Schedule meetings with targeted Legislative bill sponsors to gain support for the Governor's proposed language in the pending House budget - **ONGOING**

- SB587 – An Act further Regulating the Enforcement of Illegal Hunting (“The Compact”) was reported favorably from the ENV Committee. The bill was attached to HB904 and was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The text of HB904 can be found at: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H904>

- 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.