



NORTH CAROLINA SPORTING DOG ASSOCIATION - END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER

The North Carolina Constitution acknowledges the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife by traditional means. Hunting with dogs has been a human tradition for thousands of years and has been a part of our culture in North Carolina since its founding. The North Carolina Sporting Dog Association and its lobbyists are working to make sure this tradition is protected for generations to come. We are working to ensure that everyone in our state and our legislative leaders are educated about our way of life. Please see below for an update from the organization, the lobbying team's accomplishments from last year, General Assembly Schedule, agenda for the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session, and a political update.

ORGANIZATION UPDATES:

The NC Sporting Dog Association is finishing a period of transition. Joe and Henri McClees organized the group and represented its interests for many years at the legislature, executive agencies, and Wildlife Resources Commission. The McClees developed a reputation for effectively defending dog hunting traditions while working together with the Wildlife Resources Commission, local authorities, and dog hunters for everyone's mutual benefit. We are grateful for their service and their years of standing on the front lines to protect the culture of dog hunting in North Carolina. After a long and successful career representing the Association and many other clients, Joe and Henri retired in December of 2020. In 2021, the Association re-constituted the Board of Directors, who voted to hire two new lobbyists - Nathan Honaker and Jackson Stancil. We also have a new website which should be completed soon, and a new address. Our updated business information has changed as follows:

North Carolina Sporting Dog Association, Inc.

150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1130

Raleigh, NC 27601

WEB: <https://ncsportingdog.com> (under construction)

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NC-Sporting-Dog-Association-Inc-91748479183>

NEW LOBBYISTS: NATHAN HONAKER AND JACKSON STANCIL



Nathan Honaker is a licensed North Carolina attorney and registered lobbyist with a strong connection to the dog hunting community. Nathan has an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and his law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He represents a diverse array of clients through his position as the General Counsel of one of the top lobbying firms in the state, Connect C, LLC, and he also also owns and operates the Law Office of Nathaniel W Honaker, PLLC. Before lobbying, Nathan spent time working at the legislature, including positions with Senate leader Phil Berger. One of Nathan's favorite traditions is hunting bear with hounds in Eastern North Carolina, and he loves spending time with his bloodhound Martha Washington running scent trails and tracking wounded game for friends and family.

To contact Nathan directly, please choose one of the following options:

Email: nathan@nwh-law.com



Jackson Stancil is a well-known lobbyist and political consultant, and has been recognized as one of the top lobbyists in North Carolina on numerous occasions. Jackson is owner and manager of Jones Street Consulting, LLC, a firm which represents a strong client base including technology, local government, healthcare, manufacturing, and education. Jackson brings decades of legislative experience to the table as he worked for legislative leaders from Eastern North Carolina for many years before registering as a lobbyist and starting his company. In addition to his connections at the legislature, Jackson has strong ties within the Department of Labor, Department of State Treasurer, Department of Insurance, Department of Agriculture, and the Wildlife Resource Commission.

To contact Jackson directly, please choose one of the following options:

Email: jackson@jonestreetconsulting.com,

2021 Long Session Accomplishments

House Bill 181 Separate Licensing Requirements for Dog Hunters - DEFEATED

When the Wildlife Resource Commission agency bill (H181) was filed this year, it contained an extremely concerning section:

RESPONSIBLE HUNTER TRAINING 19 SECTION 10.(a) G.S. 113-270.1A is amended by adding a new subsection to read: "(a2) No person may pursue or chase deer with dogs for the purpose of training or hunting unless they first obtain a dog hunter education certificate issued by the Commission that demonstrates that the person has completed a dog hunter education course. The requirements of subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(4) of this section shall apply to the certificate and education course required by this subsection. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall adopt rules to implement this subsection." SECTION 10.(b) The Commission shall establish from its membership an advisory committee to create the dog hunter education course required by this section. The advisory committee shall also include at least two representatives from organizations promoting or conducting dog hunting in the State.

This section was NOT an agency request of the Wildlife Resource Commission. The Commission did not support this section and they did not get in the way of our lobbyists removing it from the bill. After pushback from our organization and from other legislators, the elected official who was supportive of this section amended the bill in a second draft, but the legislation still required WRC to implement a manual of best practices for deer dog hunting. Our lobbyists used a procedural maneuver in the next committee to ensure that in **the third draft of the bill, the section was REMOVED ENTIRELY.**

Friends of the Association Spotlight:

We want to recognize two outstanding members of the House of Representatives, Rep. Bobby Hanig and Rep. Ben Moss, who played key roles in helping our team adjust this legislation.



Rep. Ben Moss
House New Member Whip
Republican - District 66
Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly



Rep. Bobby Hanig
House Deputy Majority Whip
Republican - District 6
Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico

They deserve our support and our gratitude for fighting in the trenches with us to amend this bill before it even made it past the committee process in the House of Representatives.

For the rest of the Session, any reference to dogs or dog hunting proposals at the legislature were dead on arrival thanks to the leadership of Speaker Moore and Senator Phil Berger.

Prohibitions on Dog Hunting on Butner-Falls Game Lands - DEFEATED

The Wildlife Resources Commission reached out to our organization expressing their desire to investigate restrictions on dog hunting on the Wake County portion of Butner-Falls Game Lands. After discussions with our lobbyists and examining the totality of the circumstances, the Commission made an internal decision to postpone any discussion of Wake County restrictions at this time.

Prohibitions on Dog Hunting on Kings Creek GameLand - DEFEATED

This past year, the Wildlife Resources Commission added a 2,340-acre property in Wilkes and Caldwell Counties owned by the NC Department of Agriculture to its gamelands program. The initial proposal to add the gameland would have prohibited hunting bear with dogs. After our lobbyists engaged, the Wildlife Resources Commission and North Carolina Department of Agriculture adopted an open access policy for this game land and removed all restriction on hunting bear with dogs.

Prohibitions on Dog Hunting on Goose Creek Gameland - AMENDED

Initial proposals for new game lands regulations on the Goose Creek Gamelands contained extremely restrictive language which would have prohibited dog hunting on large portions of the gamelands. After our attorney, Nathan Honaker, engaged with staff at the Wildlife Resource Commission, the Commission worked with our organization to amend these restrictions to allow dog hunting to continue on hundreds of acres which were initially included in the restriction.

Regulation for Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves - PASSED

Our attorney, Nathan Honaker, and our President, Keith Loudermilt, attended several meetings at the Wildlife Resource Commission headquarters in Raleigh, NC to discuss and negotiate the controlled rabbit hunting preserve regulations. The process involved input from different rabbit preserve operators of all sizes and different regions of the state, and our organization played a key role in negotiating the compromise. The rules were eventually passed and can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

BURKE COUNTY ANIMAL ORDINANCE CHANGES - DEFEATED

The Animal Advisory Board to the Burke County Commission proposed some concerning restrictions on dog ownership including kennel size, food and water requirements, tethering, and implementation of breeder permits. The regulatory scheme would have placed a tremendous burden on the sporting dog community in Burke County. After the Association engaged directly with the members on the Board and the Commission, the proposal was tabled. We will keep a close eye on this group in case it ever comes up again.

PASQUOTANK COUNTY MORATORIUM ON DOG RULES - PASSED

After members of our organization mounted a grassroots campaign in response to animal rights activists, Pasquotank County Commissioners passed a moratorium on discussing any restriction on dog hunting for three years. We will seek to use this as a model for future counties who have consistent agitators seeking to restrict dog hunting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

The North Carolina General Assembly operates on a biennium – a two-year legislative cycle. Legislation, including the state budget, is introduced in the long session and then it is adjusted in the short session the following year. Unlike some states, North Carolina has no restriction on when the General Assembly must meet and no limits on how long each session should last. In 2021, we saw the longest long session in state history – a session which just ended on May 6, 2022. Budget discussions and redistricting litigation were the two primary reasons for this unusually long session, but these processes have now reached a conclusion. When the North Carolina House and Senate return on May 18th, it will be for the 2022 short session where they will conduct normal legislative business, with an emphasis on adjustment and correction of legislation filed last year – especially the state budget.

WHAT TO EXPECT: 2022 SHORT SESSION

Here are some items we know will be considered in the 2022 Short Session:

1. **Budget Technical Corrections:** A lot of work is going into preparing for one or more technical corrections bills for last year's budget, which was so large as to require much clarification.
2. **2022 Appropriations Act:** There will be some new appropriations in the short session, but these requests will few and far between. Any new money requests will be extremely difficult to achieve in the short session. Legislators have made agreements to be extremely selective in considering budget requests so that they can get in and out of Raleigh as quickly as possible.
3. **2022 Farm Bill:** We expect Senator Brent Jackson to introduce a Farm Bill this year. Senator Jackson's farm bills have been tremendously helpful to NC Agriculture over the years and we will look forward to working with him again this year to help our clients and the rest of the agriculture community.
4. **Healthcare Discussions:** Healthcare issues were discussed in depth in the interim, but we do not expect many of the most controversial items to make an appearance in the short session. We do expect discussions to continue, and there is a possibility that a special session is called later this year specifically to deal with healthcare

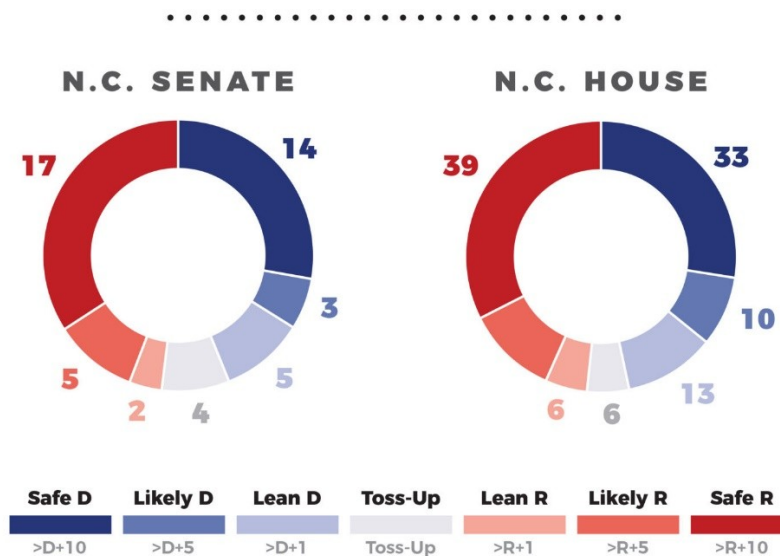
NCSDA Legislative Agenda for 2022 - **NO DOG BILLS**

With limited exception, new legislation cannot be filed in the short session. All bills which are considered must have passed one chamber (House or Senate) by the crossover deadline of May 13, 2021. However, policy changes can be made by amending existing legislation, and amendments can sometimes take the form of completely new legislation which replaces the text of the old bill – a workaround to avoid the crossover deadline restriction. We will need to be extremely vigilant. We have already heard reports of a few legislators who desire to amend our General Statutes to expand the power of the Wildlife Resources Commission over dog hunting and to further restrict the practice across the state. Our lobbyists will be engaged every day in Raleigh to protect our rights.

POLITICAL UPDATE - 2022 Predictions

In North Carolina, we now have new maps for State House and Senate as well as Congress. The legislature drew two of the maps, and the court drew the Congressional map after legal challenges to the original maps drawn by the legislature. In the 2022 general election, the new maps will likely produce a 8-6 Congressional delegation in favor of Republicans and continued Republican majorities in House and Senate. Civitas Partisan Index, published by the John Locke Foundation, is a useful tool to predict election outcomes in North Carolina, and we have posted it below. In a strong Republican year (as we will likely see in 2022), the seats which are likely R, lean R, and toss-up are all Republican victories, and we will probably see a few of the lean D seats swing to the right as well. This will ensure Republican majorities in each chamber with a chance of supermajority. In a strong Democrat year, we could see the opposite effect, which would give Democrats a chance to take back the majority in one or both chambers. The Congressional map drawn by the Court has essentially 6 guaranteed Republican seats and 6 guaranteed Democrat seats and only two seats which could swing based on national trends.

Civitas Partisan Index



If Republican turnout and enthusiasm continues, it is predicted that Republicans will win the high-profile statewide races on the 2022 ballot including the open United States Senate seat and the two seats on the North Carolina Supreme Court. If Republicans do carry the seats on the Court, they would take the majority by a margin of 5-2. Our United States Senate race is expected to attract national attention just as in 2020, with hundreds of millions of dollars flowing in from across the country. The Democratic nominee is all but certain, former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley. She will face either former Governor Pat McCrory or Congressman Ted Budd.

It is our privilege to serve as your lobbyists in Raleigh and to work to protect our culture and heritage. We are invested in the future of this organization and the future of dog hunting in North Carolina. We look forward to continuing to build momentum this year as we look forward to the next legislative cycle in 2023-2024. If you are reading this and are not a member of the group, please sign up immediately. Consider passing along this information to your hunting club if they do not yet have a club membership, and sharing with any businesses who might become our corporate sponsors. Call me at the number below for more information on how to join and participate, or for any questions about the work we do on behalf of the Association.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Honaker
Law Office of Nathaniel W Honaker, PLLC
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1130
Raleigh, NC 27601
Cell: 919-810-4400
nathan@nwh-law.com