



SPONSOR: Rep. Boulden;
Reps. Smith, Lee, Caulk, D. Ennis,
Lofink, Oberle, Quillen, Brady, B.
Ennis, Keeley, Mulrooney, Plant,
Viola, West, Williams

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 81

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AND REAFFIRMING DELAWARE'S COMMITMENT TO MANAGING AND PROVIDING RENEWABLE RECREATION, WITH SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFITS, THROUGH SPORT HUNTING AND FISHING AND REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE ESTABLISHED TO EVALUATE THE DESIRABILITY OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR RACCOON AND SQUIRREL HUNTING IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK.

1 WHEREAS, Delaware has many fish and wildlife species with stable or expanding populations in the State and
2 sport hunting and fishing provides a primary mechanism for the management of these species; and

3 WHEREAS, Delaware hunters and anglers contribute millions of dollars each year to preserve, enhance, protect
4 and manage the State's natural resources and support the State's economy; and

5 WHEREAS, all of private conservation groups that manage fish and wildlife and their habitat in the State benefit
6 from the support of hunters and anglers including Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The National Wild Turkey Federation, Delaware
7 Wildlands, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Bass Masters and other groups that contribute millions of
8 dollars each year to conservation causes; and

9 WHEREAS, several high profile species such as bald eagles, wild turkeys, deer and striped bass are currently
10 more abundant and dispersed throughout the State than any time in recent history due to current fish and wildlife
11 management programs funded by hunters and anglers; and

12 WHEREAS, Delaware's communities, citizens and business have a vested interest in fish and wildlife
13 management programs to provide recreation and to manage populations of fish and wildlife; and

14 WHEREAS, Delaware's federal, State, county and local communities have thousands of acres of land and waters
15 in their control that can provide significant opportunities for hunting and fishing that provide recreation, economic
16 benefits, and help manage fish and wildlife populations that may be overly abundant and causing damage.

17 NOW, THEREFORE:

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 141st General Assembly of the State of Delaware that
19 the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint by September 1, 2003 a twelve member Task Force to study the best
20 way to conduct a one-year pilot program for raccoon and squirrel hunting during hours when the park is closed in those
21 areas of the White Clay Creek State Park which were justified by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks
22 and Recreation 2001 study as being safe and having no detriment to animal populations or other resources.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the Task Force shall be the Chair of the House of
24 Representatives Natural Resources and Environmental Management Committee or his designee. The remaining members
25 shall be members of the public who have demonstrated a commitment to the recreational and economic benefits of safe
26 and controlled hunting in the State of Delaware as follows:

- 27 (a) Four (4) public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 28 (b) Four (4) public members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- 29 (c) One (1) additional member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives; and
- 31 (d) One (1) additional member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority Leader
32 of the House of Representatives; and
- 33 (e) The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control or his designee.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall examine the areas and work with the two agencies
35 which authorized the 2001 study and shall make its recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
36 February 1, 2003.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal, State, County and local communities should work in partnership to
38 eliminate barriers that prevent fishing and hunting opportunities on their lands that promote conservation goals, protect
39 public health and safety and provide sustainable recreation.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitably prepared copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable
41 Ruth Ann Minner, Governor of the State of Delaware; Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife; Director of the
42 Division of Parks and Receptions; the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; and
43 the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Parks and Receptions Council.