

RESTRICTIONS ON SUNDAY HUNTING

Today, state laws in the U.S. have little in common with the laws imposed during the colonial period. One exception is the continuation of so called “Blue Laws” that restrict certain activities on Sundays. Originally used as a way for the government to compel colonists to attend church, most restrictions on whether stores can open, families can cook, or whether farmers can till their fields have long since been lifted. By the end of the 19th century, these restrictions began to be challenged by merchants’ associations and by 1970 only 25 states still had Blue Laws. This number had fallen to 13 by 1984.ⁱ Today, regardless of whether one believes it should be the government’s role to encourage church attendance, it is interesting to note that states that allow Sunday hunting actually have the highest rates of church attendance in the country.

States with Restrictions or Prohibition on Sunday Hunting

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Virginia

Unfortunately for hunters and their families, 8 states continue to restrict hunting on Sundays, with 3 prohibiting hunting on Sundays all together. Despite recent victories secured by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Sunday Hunting Coalition, more needs to be done to remove antiquated and unnecessary government restrictions on Sunday hunting.ⁱⁱ

RESTRICTS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Wildlife conservation is funded in part by the sale of hunting licenses, as well as the sale of firearms and ammunition. Some states that restrict Sunday hunting, such as Pennsylvania, are seeing a decrease in hunting license sales as hunters choose to travel to neighboring states for weekend hunting trips and as out-of-state hunters forgo restricted states as a destination in favor of states that allow for a full weekend of hunting. More hunting tourism would help reverse the loss in conservation dollars.

RESTRAINS ECONOMIC GROWTH

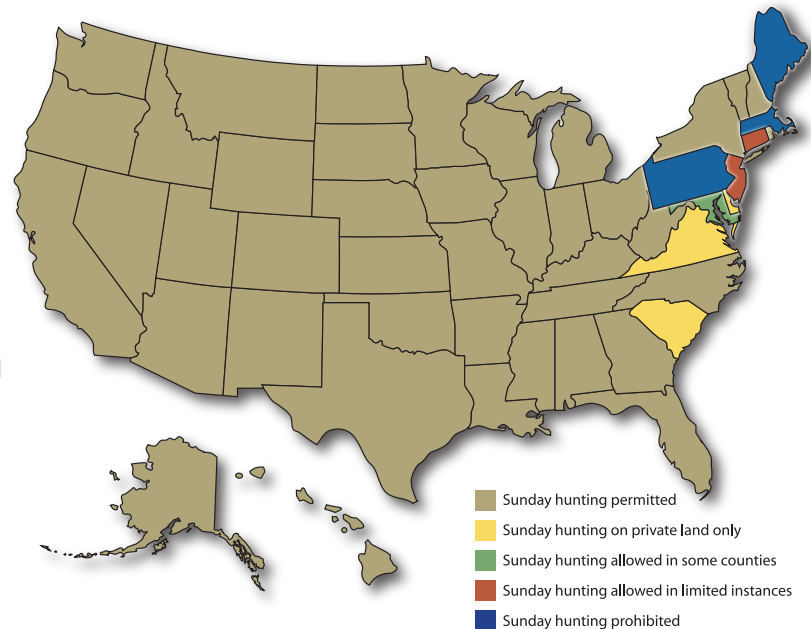
Allowing hunting on Sundays would lead to a boost in state economies. If all 8 states with limits or outright bans on Sunday hunting were to eliminate these outdated restrictions, and simply allow hunting on all Sundays within the dates of the current hunting season, it is estimated that

up to 27,000 new jobs would be created. These are good jobs, paying roughly \$730 million in wages, and contributing about \$2.2 billion in additional economic activity to these states.ⁱⁱⁱ

LIMITS CHOICES OF HUNTERS AND FAMILIES

Today many families face busy schedules with long work weeks and weekend extracurricular activities for children on Saturdays. For hunters that see the importance of keeping the tradition of hunting alive for future generations, limiting the time available to hunt alone or with their families is a burden on their goal of promoting tradition. Even for those that would choose not to hunt on Sundays, lifting the government restriction grants all the option to enjoy this activity without artificial schedules imposed.

Sportsmen and women understand the value of being free to choose if and when to hunt during the hunting season, just as Americans are free to decide to participate in other recreational activities such as fishing or boating on Sundays. The current restrictions are supported by extremist animal rights groups and gun control activists who see upholding outdated rules as a way to limit and eventually ban all hunting every day of the week.



continued →



The National Shooting Sports Foundation
Economic Impact of Hunting
2016/2017 Data Maryland Sunday Hunting Impact



Direct Economic Impact			
	Jobs	Wages	Output
Manufacturing	1	\$ 44,069	\$ 214,083
Services	287	\$ 12,341,773	\$ 47,255,747
Retailing	270	\$ 9,513,902	\$ 19,578,644
Total	558	\$ 21,899,744	\$ 67,048,474

Supplier Impact			
	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	5	\$ 6,740	\$ 27,317
Business and Personal Services	88	\$ 7,840,604	\$ 13,305,476
Construction	6	\$ 545,557	\$ 1,110,135
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Government	31	\$ 2,446,805	\$ 9,007,546
Manufacturing	16	\$ 1,506,013	\$ 9,333,816
Mining	3	\$ 49,456	\$ 455,205
Other	-	\$ -	\$ -
Retailing	1	\$ 58,838	\$ 109,990
Transportation and Communication Travel and Entertainment Wholesaling	19	\$ 2,255,768	\$ 7,029,955
	14	\$ 491,757	\$ 1,210,872
	5	\$ 567,791	\$ 1,370,498
Total	190	\$ 15,982,190	\$ 43,287,748

Induced Economic Impact			
	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	3	\$ 89,509	\$ 366,426
Business and Personal Services	112	\$ 9,093,974	\$ 14,873,273
Construction	3	\$ 325,537	\$ 729,274
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Government	36	\$ 3,058,746	\$ 12,266,826
Manufacturing	4	\$ 379,169	\$ 616,084
Mining	10	\$ 996,856	\$ 6,965,052
Other	0	\$ 32,671	\$ 113,934
Retailing	5	\$ 93,289	\$ 334,872
Transportation and Communication Travel and Entertainment Wholesaling	34	\$ 1,664,653	\$ 3,208,558
	14	\$ 1,495,514	\$ 4,835,129
	34	\$ 1,262,263	\$ 3,096,715
	8	\$ 943,540	\$ 2,235,239
Total	264	\$ 19,435,722	\$ 49,641,381

	Jobs	Wages	Output
Total Economic Impact	1,012	\$ 57,317,656	\$ 159,977,603

Note: Based on a model of the Hunting Industry Developed by John Dunham & Associates for the National Shooting Sports Foundation in 2015 based on data from *Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy*, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, 2007, and updated to reflect total hunting days for 2016 data from the NSSF, total 2017 hunting licenses in Maryland from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and updated spending on Hunting from the *2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Census Bureau.

The model assumes a hunting season of September 1 - February 28. The actual hunting calendar is more complicated, with different periods open for different animals.