

Sunday Hunting Limitations

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Issue

What states limit or prohibit hunting on Sundays?

Summary

Based on research by the Legislative Library, we identified 10 states that limit or prohibit hunting on Sunday: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Of these 10 states, Maine and Massachusetts prohibit all hunting on Sundays, while the other eight states limit it by imposing restrictions that do not apply on other days of the week (e.g., limiting the time, place, or manner of hunting).

States With Sunday Hunting Restrictions

The below table identifies states that limit or prohibit Sunday hunting.

Table 1: States Limiting or Prohibiting Sunday Hunting

State	Citation	Brief Summary
Connecticut	CGS § 26-73	Prohibited except for hunting deer with a bow and arrow on private property if allowed by the landowner; cannot hunt within 40 yards of a blazed hiking trail
Delaware	Del. Code Ann. tit. 7, § 712	Generally prohibited except for hunting (1) red foxes with dogs and (2) deer on private land (if allowed by the landowner) and designated public lands

Table 1 (continued)

State	Citation	Brief Summary
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 12, § 11205	Prohibited
Maryland	Md. Code Ann., Nat. Res. § 10-410	Allowed in most counties, but the law’s provisions on dates, hours, and types of land open for hunting vary by county; see this chart from the state’s Department of Natural Resources for more information
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 131, § 57	Prohibited
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 23:4-24	Generally prohibited except for hunting (1) raccoon during specified hours and (2) deer with a bow and arrow on private property or in a state wildlife management area
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 103-2	Prohibits the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hunting from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • hunting within 500 yards of a place of worship • using firearms to take deer that are chased by dogs • hunting on public lands not designated by the state’s Wildlife Resources Commission (the commission has currently designated some, but not all, public lands for Sunday hunting)
Pennsylvania	34 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 2303	Prohibited except for hunting (1) foxes and coyotes, (2) deer on three Sundays a year as specified by the state, and (3) on noncommercial regulated hunting grounds
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. § 123-40	Prohibited on Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands not designated by the Department of Natural resources (currently, the department has designated some, but not all, WMA lands for Sunday hunting; in some cases Sunday hunting is not available for the full season)
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. §§ 29.1-521 & 29.1-514	Prohibits the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hunting within 200 yards of a place of worship • hunting or killing deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the help of dogs • hunting of nonmigratory game birds in Augusta County and any county or city that prohibits it by ordinance