

URGENT REQUEST

October 16, 2014

Dear PAFA Member,

Last night PA House Bill 1750 was passed in the state senate with a vote of 36 to 12 and 2 non-votes. With the passage of this bill, comes an amendment that puts a ban on pigeon shooting, as defined as a non-game bird, and the method by which the birds are shot.

Here is an excerpt of the amended bill:

(C.2) USE OF DOGS, CATS OR OTHER LIVE ANIMALS OR FOWL FOR TARGETS AT TRAP SHOOT OR BLOCK SHOOT PROHIBITED.--

(1) A PERSON COMMITS A SUMMARY OFFENSE IF THAT PERSON OPERATES A TRAP SHOOT OR BLOCK SHOOT IN WHICH DOGS, CATS OR OTHER LIVE ANIMALS OR FOWL ARE USED AS TARGETS.

(2) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO APPLY TO ACTIVITY WHICH IS AUTHORIZED OR PERMITTED UNDER 34 PA.C.S. (RELATING TO GAME) OR A SPECIAL PERMIT UNDER 58 PA. CODE CH. 147 (RELATING TO SPECIAL PERMITS).

(Q) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

"BLOCK SHOOT." AN EVENT DURING WHICH PARTICIPANTS SHOOT OR ATTEMPT TO SHOOT TARGETS WHICH:

(1) FROM A FIXED LOCATION WITHIN A PREDEFINED SHOOTING FIELD, ARE MANUALLY OR WITH ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE LAUNCHED OR OTHERWISE IMMEDIATELY PRESENTED TO THE SHOOTER; OR

(2) WHEN PRESENTED TO THE SHOOTER, ARE:

(I) AFFIXED TO A TETHERING DEVICE; OR

(II) OTHERWISE IMPAIRED FROM ORDINARY MOVEMENT.

* * *

"FOWL." A BIRD, AS DEFINED IN 34 PA.C.S. § 102 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS). THE TERM EXCLUDES A GAME BIRD.

"GAME BIRD." AS DEFINED IN 34 PA.C.S. § 102 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS).

"TRAP SHOOT." A BLOCK SHOOT.

20130HB1750PN3859 - 3 -

(Chukars (like pigeons) are not considered a game bird, and therefore will also become a target as the antis go after game breeders, dog trainers and their methods of training bird dogs.)

Having watched the entire proceedings on PCN last night, what I found most disappointing was the representation by our legislative "supporters" and their feeble attempts to present their opposition to the bill as amended and dissuade the vote to pass the bill, thereby sending it back to the house for ratification. The proponents of the bill did a superb job of not only stating their view as to why pigeon shooting is not considered a sport or hunting activity, but clearly animal abuse with all its ugliness.

On Monday, October 20, 2014 the bill will come up for a final vote and ratification. Today and tomorrow will be our last opportunity to contact members of the PA House of Representatives to voice your opposition to the passage of this bill.

We urge you and any sportsman you know to contact their representative and ask them to vote no on Monday.

[HOUSE BILL 1750](#)

[PA House of Representatives](#)

Allan Roberts, VP PAFA
PAFA Executive Board