

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, Inc.

CELEBRATING 82 YEARS OF ENHANCING CONSERVATION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OUTDOOR RESOURCES
THE VOICE OF 200,000 LICENSED HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY



ACSL on the Web at www.acslpa.org

Member: National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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Hunting with Semi-auto Firearms HB 366

Consider Co-sponsoring Rep Rick Saccone's **Hunting with Semiautomatic Firearms (HB 366)** legalizing the use of semi auto firearms for hunting in PA as currently 48 of 50 states now do.

Only the states of Delaware and PA still prohibit the use of semi-auto firearms for hunting.

Rep Saccone's proposed legislation, if passed, would not automatically allow these semi-auto firearms to be used for hunting, but would simply give the PA Game Commission (PGC) the authority to regulate and allow the use of such semi-auto firearms during specific seasons or for specific species as they currently do for semi-auto shotguns and all types of hunting firearms in order to properly manage our various game species.

Currently the PGC does allow disabled hunters with amputation of a hand or both hands to use semi-auto firearms for hunting. There have been zero enforcement problems.

Other than Delaware, ALL of the other states directly adjoining PA allow the use of semi-auto firearms for hunting.

*Points to consider regarding our advocacy of legalizing semi-auto firearms for all especially youth, women and even older male hunters.

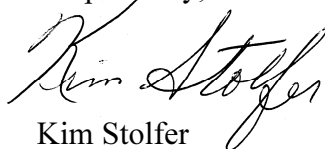
- Semi-Automatic firearms attenuate recoil. One big downside to manually operated firearms, when compared to a semi-automatic rifle is felt recoil. Larger calibers, including 30-06 on up, generate significant recoil that average shooters may not tolerate well. Gas-operated semi-autos softens this recoil.
- Faster follow up shots. Semi-auto firearms provide for faster reloading for follow-up shots. Combining less recoil, which limits muzzle jump with faster reloading providing hunters the opportunity to get the sights and/or crosshairs back on target for a second or third shot, should it be required, and the semi-auto firearm wins out over manually operated actions for the humane harvesting of game. (reduced recoil and follow up shot is why semi-auto shotguns are so popular)
- Many of these same semi-auto firearms also have adjustable stocks and pistol grips that make them more user friendly again for young hunters, woman and hunters in general.

- Greater choices in the use of firearms will encourage out of state hunters to reconsider PA as a choice to make for their hard earned dollars and hunting season selection.

This is a sampling of the reasons for allowing PA become the 49th state to allow semi-auto firearms for hunting as this change will retain and help recruit new hunters to carry on the all of recreational activity that hunting provides.

We respectfully request that you consider adding your support, by co-sponsoring, this highly desirable upgrade to PA hunters firearm choices as hunters in 48 other states now enjoy.

Respectfully,



Kim Stolfer
Chairman, Legislative Committee

Our research shows that of the 48 states that allow semi-auto firearms for hunting (i.e. predators, elk, moose, deer, antelope, bear and small game hunting) that 17 out of 48 states had some magazine capacity restrictions for hunting, out of those 10 states had 5 round limitations (one was less at 3 rounds) as proposed in Rep Saccone's legislations (including NJ)

Listed below are the semi-auto rifle hunting regulation for the 5 states that adjoin PA

- **Before New York SAFE Act passage the limit was 10 rounds for semi-auto. Limit now is 6 rounds** -- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28182.html>
 - with any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, EXCEPT the following semi-automatic firearms:
 1. firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
 2. firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
 3. autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than eight inches.
- **Maryland (not known to be gun owner friendly) allows semi-auto firearms for hunting**
<http://www.eregulations.com/maryland...m-regulations/>
Rifle Regulations
 - Firearms used for deer and bear hunting may not have an ammunition clip loaded with more than 8 cartridges or bullets. If a clip has the capacity to hold more than 8 rounds, **the clip does not have to be physically blocked**, but no more than 8 cartridges or bullets may be loaded.
- **New Jersey allows the use of semi-auto firearms for hunting** even if they are subject to stringent levels of gun control regulations. -- <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/2014/dighnt22-33.pdf>
A modern rifle magazine need not be pinned (plugged), but may be loaded with no more than three cartridges. Rife permit holders of all ages may hunt with all rifle types as allowed by New Jersey laws.
- **Ohio has no magazine capacity limit for semi-auto rifles..**Note Ohio does not permit hunting deer with center fire rifles -- <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/hunting-...ting-equipment>
- **West Virginia has no magazine capacity limit for hunting with semi-auto firearms**
http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting_regs.shtm

Important note: For DECADES the PA Game Commission has allowed semi-auto shotguns with rifle slugs (accurate out to 200 yards) for special regulations areas for hunting deer and small game. Hunters using these semi-auto firearms are not causing problems in urban areas now. They won't anywhere else in PA either!