

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Griffin Roberge 271-3042

HB 192, relative to pistols permitted for the taking of deer.

Hearing Date: March 22, 2021.

Time Opened: 1:56 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Avard, Giuda, Gray, Watters and Perkins Kwoka.

Members of the Committee Absent: None.

Bill Analysis: This bill adds additional pistols permitted for the taking of deer.

Sponsors:

Rep. J. MacDonald

Rep. Crawford

Rep. Avellani

Rep. Umberger

Rep. Deshaies

Who supports the bill: Representative Timothy Lang, Belknap - District 7; Representative John MacDonald, Carroll - District 6; William Macduff, Wolfeboro, NH; Joe Hannon, Gun Owners of New Hampshire; Bill Roy; Ronald Garnett; Paul Sanderson, NH Fish and Game Department.

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt; Ruth Larson; Richard DeMark; Lucinda Hope.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative John MacDonald

Carroll - District 6

- Back in October 2019, a constituent had contacted the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) expressing their concerns about the difference between a .45 Long Colt and .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol). NHFG explained that the types of calibers that can be used in pistols for taking deer in specific municipalities as outlined in RSAs 208:3, 3-a, 3-b, and 3-c were codified in state statute under RSA 208:3-d. Any changes to the types of calibers that can be used would require legislative review and approval.
- HB 192 amends RSA 208:3-d to add additional pistol calibers for the taking of deer. These new calibers include the .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol), .460 Rowland, .45 Super, .50 AE (Action Express), .357 SIG Sauer, .327 Federal Magnum, and .400 Corbon.
- The House Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee recommended the bill “ought to pass” by a vote of 17-3 and was placed on the House consent calendar. The full House approved the committee’s recommendation by a voice vote.

Representative Timothy Lang

Belknap – District 4

- HB 192 is a housekeeping bill that modernizes RSA 208:3-d to include newer and more common calibers for the taking of deer.

- HB 192 also allows a pistol under RSA 208:3-d to be loaded with six rounds rather than five rounds. This change makes RSA 208:3-d consistent with the number of rounds that can be loaded into other types of firearms allowed for the taking of wildlife under HB 342's (2021) proposed changes to RSA 207:3. Having five rounds created an enforcement issue for the NHFG as it made accidental criminals out of some hunters; a hunter could have six rounds in a pistol for personal protection while hunting, but could only have five rounds in that same pistol if used for hunting.

Joe Hannon

Vice President, Gun Owners of New Hampshire

- HB 192 gives hunters more choice in the type of pistol he or she uses while taking deer.
- Altering the number of rounds in a pistol under RSA 208:3-d will simplify NHFG enforcement.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

GJR

Date Hearing Report completed: March 22, 2021.