

SENATE, No. 720

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator ZANE

1 AN ACT concerning the use of firearms while trapping on Sundays and  
2 amending R.S.23:4-24.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. R.S.23:4-24 is amended to read as follows:

8 23:4-24. No person shall hunt with a hound or with firearms or  
9 weapons of any kind, or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the  
10 waters on Sunday, under a penalty of \$20.00 for each offense; except  
11 that this section shall not apply to any person hunting raccoon between  
12 midnight on Saturday and sunrise on Sunday during the season  
13 prescribed in section 23:4-1 of this Title or to a person possessing a  
14 valid and proper rifle permit licensed to trap fur-bearing animals  
15 pursuant to the provisions of R.S.23:3-1 using a .22 caliber rifle and  
16 .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges to humanely dispatch legally  
17 trapped animals. This section shall not prevent farm land owners,  
18 lessees actually occupying or farming the land, members of their  
19 immediate families, or their farm employees from hunting and  
20 destroying at any time and in any manner crows, woodchuck, fox and  
21 vermin on that land.

22 (cf: P.L.1959, c.71, s.1)

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This bill amends R.S.23:4-24, a statute that prohibits hunting on  
30 Sundays, to permit persons licensed to trap fur-bearing animals  
31 pursuant to the provisions of R.S.23:3-1, to use a .22 caliber rifle with  
32 .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges to shoot and kill legally trapped  
33 animals on Sundays. The bill requires the animal be killed in a humane  
34 manner.

**EXPLANATION** - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Under current law, trapping is permitted every day of the week and  
2 the use of firearms in the field is permitted every day except Sundays.  
3 Consequently, trappers are unable to dispatch trapped animals on  
4 Sundays in the most humane fashion, which is with a firearm. Under  
5 the provisions of the bill, trappers would be able to use firearms and  
6 ammunition of limited power on Sundays only for that purpose.

7

8

9

10

11

12 Permits use of .22 short cartridge by trappers on Sundays.