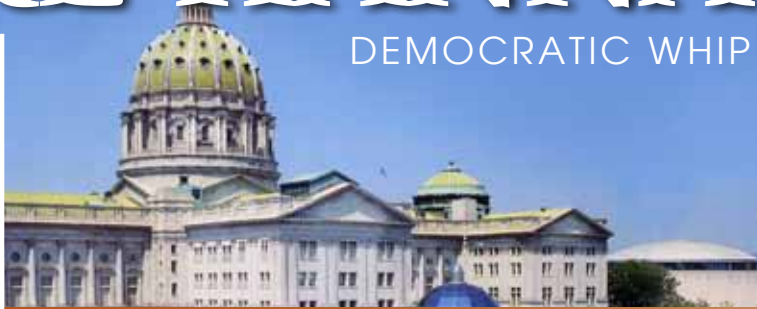


# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HANNA

DEMOCRATIC WHIP



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## FALL 2011 OUTDOORS REPORT

TO THE 76TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

[WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/HANNA](http://WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/HANNA)

### Vintage snowmobile legislation approved by committee

Legislation that would make it easier for vintage snowmobile enthusiasts to participate in events celebrating their hobby was approved by the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and is poised for action by the full state House of Representatives.

House Bill 63 would authorize the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue permits for vintage snowmobiles that are used only while participating in an exhibition or other event that is open to the public.

## DEER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

I recently introduced legislation designed to focus the mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission on sportsmen, while also giving hunters more involvement in the management of whitetail deer.

As you may know, the PGC is responsible for managing game in the commonwealth. Within the last decade, the PGC has changed its deer management strategy. This change has demonstrated that the PGC is not considering the needs of sportsmen. As such, my legislation (H.B. 2034) would amend the duties of the PGC to focus primarily on serving the interests of sportsmen, including maximizing the sustainable yield of the whitetail deer herd.

This legislation would also establish a bipartisan Antlerless Deer Harvest Committee. Currently, the PGC determines antlerless deer allocations with minimal public involvement. Under my bill, an Antlerless Deer Harvest Committee would review the information and calculations and accept the recommendations or propose their own allocations. The decision of the committee would be binding on the PGC.

Since sportsmen are the primary means used by the PGC to manage game, I believe it is imperative that we ensure that the PGC is serving the interests of our sportsmen and providing for their involvement in the management of our wildlife resources.

*It was a great honor to participate in breaking ground on this portion of the Rockview land transfer to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and to finally see this journey begin to come to fruition. Portions of the land went to PSU Benner Township, PFBC and Pennsylvania Game Commission. It was Act 55 of 2010.*



## NEW LAWS TARGET DANGEROUS HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

Pennsylvania's forests and waterways are safer after action the legislature took recently to crack down on poachers and keep irresponsible hunters, anglers and trappers out of the state.

Act 60 of 2010 enrolled Pennsylvania in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. By joining the 37 other states in the compact, we ensure that if a hunter loses his hunting or fishing license in another state due to a serious violation, then he will lose his license in Pennsylvania.

I also supported the state's new poaching law (Act 54 of 2010) which rewrites much of the penalty section of the Game Code. It significantly increased fines and penalties for violations for illegal killing of game or wildlife, especially for the illegal taking of big game.

Both new laws are strongly supported by sportsmen and I want to thank the many hunters and anglers who contacted the legislature. The combination of these new laws have ended Pennsylvania's reputation as a poacher's paradise and strengthened our wildlife protection strategies.



## Bill would end hunting license display requirement



The state House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation that would eliminate the requirement in Pennsylvania for hunters to display their hunting license on their back while hunting.

Pennsylvania is one of only two states that still require hunters to display their license. I think it makes more sense to simply require hunters to have their license with them when they are hunting.

The bill (H.B. 735) is supported by the state Game Commission and was sent to the governor for his consideration.



*Rep. Hanna recently visited the Elk Country Visitors Center and was impressed with the wildlife as seen here.*



## Sunday hunting – still in the crosshairs

Meanwhile, legislation (H.B. 1760) has been introduced that would remove the state's prohibition on Sunday hunting. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has endorsed the legislation.

Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Game Commission approved a resolution calling for the end of the prohibition on Sunday hunting. However, under current Pennsylvania law, the legislature, not the Game Commission, has the authority to make policy regarding Sunday hunting. The current prohibition on Sunday hunting is the only game management decision given to the General Assembly.

Supporters argue that removing the Sunday restriction would improve access and opportunity for hunters in Pennsylvania at a time when the state's hunting and sporting traditions are in jeopardy due to declining numbers and limited access. Others want to keep at least one day a week free from hunting in Pennsylvania's forests and other areas. The legislation would not require the Game Commission to allow Sunday hunting throughout the year; it would simply authorize the commission to include Sundays as part of regular hunting seasons.

A legislative study found that Sunday hunting could have an economic impact of up to \$629 million in Pennsylvania and add 5,300 new jobs, so this is an important economic as well as outdoor recreation issue for the state.

I'm interested in what you think. Please use the **CONTACT ME** feature on my website at [www.pahouse.com/Hanna](http://www.pahouse.com/Hanna), or contact one of my offices listed at the top of this newsletter, to let me know whether you think Sunday hunting should be permitted in Pennsylvania. And thank you for your input!





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## STAY UP-TO-DATE

Visit my website at [www.pahouse.com/Hanna](http://www.pahouse.com/Hanna) to stay up-to-date on my legislative and community initiatives. You can also sign up to receive email alerts about my progress in Harrisburg and state-related issues that affect your life by clicking "E-mail Alerts" and filling out the form.

You can also stay up-to-date with me on:

Facebook – [facebook.com/RepHanna](http://facebook.com/RepHanna)

Twitter – @RepMikeHanna

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH:

- Information on property foreclosures
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications
- Senior citizen information, including PACE and PACENET and living wills
- PennDOT forms, information or concerns
- Voter registration and absentee ballots
- Problems with any state government agency
- Tours of the state Capitol
- House citations to honor accomplishments of individuals or groups or family milestones