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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.J.R. 5
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Ferguson and Santucci

Amanda Goodman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Proposes to amend the Ohio Constitution to establish a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife that are traditionally pursued.
- Specifies that this right is subject only to the authority of the General Assembly to enact laws concerning the promotion of wildlife conservation and management and the preservation of the future of hunting and fishing.
- Specifies that nothing in the amendment limits the application of any laws or the Ohio Constitution as they relate to trespass or property rights.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife

The resolution proposes to amend the Ohio Constitution to establish a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife that are traditionally pursued (including the right to use traditional methods). This right is subject only to the authority of the General Assembly to enact law concerning the promotion of wildlife conservation and management and the preservation of the future of hunting and fishing. The amendment also specifies all of the following:

1. The right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is a valued part of Ohio's heritage and will be forever preserved for the public good;
2. Hunting and fishing is a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife; and
3. Nothing in the amendment limits the application of any laws or the Ohio Constitution as they relate to trespass or property rights.¹

¹ Section 22 of Article 1.

Election and effective date

The resolution specifies that the amendment will be submitted to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024. If adopted by a majority of electors voting on it, the amendment takes effect immediately.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-03-23