The Massachusetts Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus was formed in 2014, becoming the 44th member of the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses (NASC). The inaugural leadership bench consisted of Representative Anne Gobi (currently Senator Gobi) and Representative David Vieira, who continue to lead the Caucus alongside Vice-Chair Representative Angelo D’Emilia and Caucus Clerk Representative Nicholas Boldyga. The Caucus currently has 30 members, including the leadership bench. The Massachusetts Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus plays a critical role in advancing the voice of sportsmen and women within the Commonwealth by elevating their concerns at the state level, and by creating more opportunities for educating and receiving input from the sporting community. Their dedication to the advancement of legislation regarding hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping, along with other conservation issues, are what spearheads the protection of some of America’s time-honored traditions within the Bay State. The Caucus continues to meet throughout the year, in order to coordinate efforts toward the protection of these interests.

Policy Highlights

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caucus Co-Chairs led the charge in fighting for the listing of firearms retailers and shooting ranges as “essential businesses,” as well as for providing reasonable accommodations to firearms owners who were reaching the expiration date on their licenses by offering an extension of time.
- Each year, the Caucus dedicates itself toward introducing high-priority sportsmen’s bills that tackle issues such as Sunday hunting authorizations, permitting recreational trapping, and expanded crossbow use during the hunting seasons.
- More recently, the Caucus has focused itself on passing legislation that would reimburse the Division of Fish and Wildlife for the funds lost through the issuance of free hunting and fishing licenses.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding

- Hunters and anglers support about the same number of jobs in Massachusetts as are employed by Boston University (9,101 vs. 9,000+).
- Massachusetts’ sportsmen and women support $381 million in salaries and wages, $91 million in federal taxes, and $71 million in state and local taxes.

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