

**Caroline County  
Board of Supervisors Agenda  
Executive Summary**

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**Meeting Date:**        **January 26, 2021**

**Title:**                **Unfinished Business – Proposed Amendment of Chapter 56 of  
the Code of Caroline County (Hunting)**

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*(Check Mark)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action (Information Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation

**Summary:** In September 2020, the Board discussed possible amendments to the Code of Caroline County to allow hunting with rifles larger than .22 caliber under certain circumstances. No action was taken at that time to allow additional review by the Board (and in view of the fact that changes could not be made in time to publish in the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Hunting & Trapping in Virginia Regulations Digest for the current hunting season).

The current County ordinance prohibits hunting with a rifle larger than a .22 caliber except:

- 1) When hunting groundhogs, coyotes and feral hogs outside of the general firearms deer season as set forth by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (formerly known as the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries); and
- 2) The use of muzzle-loading rifles is permitted during the open season for the hunting and killing of deer.

Staff has prepared a revised ordinance for a first reading at the January 26 Board meeting based on input received from the Board during the September 2020 discussion. The revised ordinance would allow the use of rifles larger than .22 caliber, provided: 1) such rifles can only be used from an elevated stand at least ten (10) feet above ground level; and 2) the rifle can have a round in its chamber only when it is on the elevated stand.

All safety and other regulations of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources must also be complied with.

Again, the draft ordinance proposed for first reading is based on what appeared to be the consensus of the Board during the September 2020 discussion. However, should the Board wish to take a different approach, staff has again included a summary of the local firearms ordinances adopted by sixty-five (65) localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia as published in the 2020-2021 Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Hunting & Trapping in Virginia Regulations Digest.

**Option #2**

As an alternative, the Board can repeal the existing County ordinance in its entirety and allow state law to apply in Caroline County instead. A number of localities in the Commonwealth have chosen to do so, including Spotsylvania County. A summary of the legal use of firearms and archery tackle under current state law is attached. These are the regulations that would apply in Caroline if the Board were to repeal the existing County hunting ordinance and not replace it.

**Budget Impact:** N/A

**Action(s) Requested of the Board of Supervisors:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff regarding any proposed changes to the existing County ordinance, particularly whether to advance an ordinance to public hearing.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Existing County ordinance
- 2) Summary of local firearms ordinances established by individual counties/cities
- 3) Legal use of firearms and archery tackle under state law

Caroline County, VA  
Thursday, September 3, 2020

## Chapter 56. Hunting

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Caroline 3-11-2014.<sup>[1]</sup> Amendments noted where applicable.]

[1] *Editor's Note: This ordinance also repealed former Ch. 56, Hunting, adopted 1-25-1989 by Ord. No. 131, as amended.*

### § 56-1. Hunting; discharge of firearms; exemptions.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt with a rifle larger than a caliber of .22 in the County, except:
- (1) In the hunting of groundhogs, coyotes and feral hogs outside the general firearms deer season as set forth by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and subject to any limitations specified by the same.
- B. It shall be further provided that, during the prescribed open season for the hunting and killing of deer, the use of muzzle-loading rifles is expressly permitted, provided that such use shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, whether state or local, which apply to the use of any other firearm.

### § 56-2. Violations and penalties.

A violation of any provision of Chapter 56 shall be punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor.

The following counties and cities have regulations concerning the use and transportation of firearms. The number or numbers following that county name indicate the regulations listed below for that particular county. In addition, certain counties have ordinances other than those listed, primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas,

residences, or buildings, and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads. Before hunting in a county or city, hunters should become familiar with all ordinances particular to that county or city by contacting the county or city directly. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle on page 20).

**Local firearms ordinances are established by individual counties/cities.  
Please contact the appropriate locality for more information.**

COUNTY	#
Accomack.....	43
Albemarle.....	16, 54
Alexandria.....	1, 54
Amherst.....	18
Arlington.....	59
Buckingham.....	12, 60
Caroline.....	17, 83
Campbell.....	11
Charles City.....	7, 33, 42
Chesapeake.....	46
Chesterfield.....	7, 14, 21, 22, 37, 54, 70
Clarke.....	25, 54
Culpeper.....	18, 22, 54
Cumberland.....	5, 17, 27, 74
Danville.....	54
Dinwiddie.....	12, 13, 38, 84
Essex.....	86
Fairfax.....	2, 22, 25, 45, 51, 54
Fauquier.....	14, 18, 22, 36, 54
Franklin.....	26
Fredericksburg (city).....	2, 18, 30, 51, 54, 64
Gate City.....	55

COUNTY	#
Gloucester.....	14
Goochland.....	9, 10, 23, 33, 77
Greensville.....	15, 22
Halifax.....	33, 61, 75
Hampton (city).....	31, 45
Hanover.....	20, 53, 85
Isle of Wight.....	8, 12, 35
James City.....	40, 54
King and Queen.....	49, 68
King George.....	6, 17, 22, 26, 54
King William.....	17, 18, 28
Lancaster.....	6, 12, 26
Loudoun.....	18, 54, 62, 64, 65
Louisa.....	17, 27
Lunenburg.....	17
Madison.....	22, 25, 54
Mecklenburg.....	27
Middlesex.....	26
Nelson.....	22
New Kent.....	8, 12, 25, 54
Newport News.....	1
Northampton.....	7, 53

COUNTY	#
Northumberland.....	17, 26, 42, 54
Orange.....	18, 22, 34
Petersburg.....	54
Pittsylvania.....	26
Poquoson (city).....	22, 69, 71, 72
Prince George.....	4, 7, 32, 43
Prince William.....	2, 12, 20
Rappahannock.....	18
Richmond.....	7, 66, 67, 68
Richmond (city).....	1, 54
Roanoke.....	25, 54, 64, 77, 79
Southampton.....	3, 8, 19, 41, 80
Stafford.....	81, 82
Suffolk.....	44, 52, 76
Surry.....	7, 53, 54
Sussex.....	7, 48, 73
Virginia Beach.....	2, 7, 54, 56, 57, 58
Warren.....	54
Westmoreland.....	50
Williamsburg.....	1, 54
York.....	47

**Permanently disabled hunters possessing a valid hunting license, hunters holding a lifetime disabled hunting license, and hunters holding a lifetime disabled veterans hunting license are exempt from any local ordinance requiring hunting from an elevated platform or tree stand.**

- No discharge of firearms except on approved ranges.
- No rifles larger than .22 for hunting.
- It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot slugs.
- Deer hunting with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire is prohibited in the county. However, hunting of groundhogs with a rifle of a caliber larger than a .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31 is permitted, and a rifle of a caliber larger than a .22 rimfire may be used for hunting all other game, bird, and varmint species as allowed by state law and regulations. Deer hunting with a shotgun loaded with slugs is permitted so long as such hunting is conducted from a stand located at least ten feet in elevation above the ground.
- It is lawful to hunt groundhogs with rifles of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire during the season between March 1 and August 31.
- No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs outside of the regular hunting season.
- No rifles for deer hunting.
- No rifles for big game hunting.
- It shall be unlawful to hunt in the county with a rifle, pistol, or revolver of a caliber larger than .22 caliber or with a shotgun loaded with slugs, except that rifles of a larger caliber, shotguns loaded with slugs and pistols or revolvers firing cartridges rated in manufacturers' tables at 350 foot pounds of energy or greater may be used to hunt from a stand elevated at least 10 feet from the ground, provided that no cartridge shall be used with a bullet of less than .23 caliber.
- It shall be unlawful to have in immediate possession any hunting firearm other than a muzzleloading rifle while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle during the early muzzleloader season.
- It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within the ditch line of any primary or secondary highway.
- It is lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for game animals in the regular hunting season.
- It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated 10 feet.
- It is unlawful to hunt from the road with firearms.
- It is unlawful to hunt with firearms from the road and within 10 feet of the ditch bank.
- It is unlawful to hunt within 100 feet of the road.
- Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized deer season where firearms are permitted.
- It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm within 100 yards of a road.
- It is unlawful to transport, possess or carry a loaded rifle in any vehicle while on the road from October 1 through February 15.
- It shall be unlawful to discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon in or along any public road or street or within 100 yards thereof or within 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers, not his own dwelling or residence.
- Except for target shooting, no person shall shoot an arrow from a bow with a peak draw weight of 10 pounds or more within 150 feet of a business, public building, public gathering, public meeting place, or dwelling of another unless they have the permission of the dwelling owner or occupant.
- It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side.
- It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within

# LOCAL FIREARMS ORDINANCES

- the county during the time between sunset and sunrise.
24. No rifles over .22 caliber for hunting except for groundhogs between March 1 and August 31.
  25. No hunting with firearms of game species from within 100 yards of a road.
  26. No hunting with firearms of any game animal from the road right-of-way.
  27. No hunting with firearms from the road including ditch to ditch.
  28. No hunting with a rifle larger than .22 caliber during the deer season.
  30. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any bird or game animal using a muzzleloading rifle or a shotgun loaded with slugs, except from a stand elevated at least 10 feet above the ground.
  31. All hunting within the City of Hampton is prohibited, with the exception of waterfowl blinds licensed by the Commonwealth where no firearm other than shotguns loaded with shot not heavier than double ought buckshot shall be discharged and no shot shall be discharged landward within 500 feet of the shoreline.
  32. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground; however, this requirement shall be expressly inapplicable to all legally handicapped persons.
  33. The use of a muzzleloading rifle shall be permitted during the early muzzleloading season and during the entire regular firearms season for deer hunting.
  34. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or rifle in a vehicle on a road during open deer season.
  35. It shall be unlawful to possess outside of a vehicle, or shoot or hunt with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, or shotgun loaded with slugs, or to possess shotgun slugs on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area in Isle of Wight County. In addition, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm within 100 yards of the boardwalk or nature trail on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area.
  36. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across any sidewalk, highway or on public land.
  37. It is unlawful for minors to carry firearms on public highways or public lands unless accompanied by certain adults.
  38. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31 and coyotes may be hunted for the entire year.
  39. It shall be lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for deer and squirrels during the regular seasons.
  40. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber, a muzzleloader larger than .36 caliber, or a shotgun loaded with slugs except from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground, except for groundhogs in certain areas between March 1 and September 1.
  41. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle at any time.
  42. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31.
  43. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within 50 feet of the center of any primary and secondary highway.
  44. Rifles are permitted for bear and deer hunting when used from stands elevated at least 15 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements).
  45. The discharge or use of a rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, or shotgun loaded with slugs is prohibited.
  46. It is unlawful to discharge any firearms, spring propelled rifle or pistol, or air-propelled rifle or pistol from, on, across or within 150 yards of any city building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway or public place within the city limits: check local county/city ordinances.
  47. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 except as specifically approved by local County ordinance.
  48. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during the special muzzleloading season.
  49. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized firearms season for the hunting of game animals except for the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season.
  50. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt in the county with a shotgun loaded with slugs or a muzzleloading rifle other than during the prescribed open season for the hunting of big game species or with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 caliber.
  51. It shall be unlawful to shoot an arrow in a manner that can be reasonably expected to result in the impact of the arrow upon the property of another without permission from the owner or tenant of such property.
  52. It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm within any densely populated area: within 200 yards from any structure or within 100 yards from any public street, secondary road, or highway within the city, except on a permitted firing range or at or upon the property of another without permission.
  53. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles.
  54. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
  55. It shall be unlawful for any person in the town, except a duly authorized officer in the course of his duty, to fire or discharge any gun, pistol, or other firearms of any kind.
  56. No discharge of firearms across or within 150 yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land, or public place.
  57. No discharge of firearms north or west of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary; thence northwardly along North Landing Road; thence eastwardly along Indian River Road; thence northeastwardly along New Bridge Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean, or across any land north of False Cape Park and east of Shipp's Bay and Point Creek. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 south of this line except muzzleloading rifles may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season.
  58. Shotguns firing pellets are lawful on certain agricultural lands of 50 contiguous acres or more, and on certain lands south of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northeastwardly along Elbow Road; thence southeastwardly along Salem Road; thence northeastwardly along North Landstown Road; thence southeastwardly along Princess Anne Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean. The property must be permitted by the City Manager for this purpose.
  59. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot off a firearm in the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot or throw any dangerous missiles by mechanical, explosive, air- or gas-propelled means, or similar method or device onto or across any public sidewalk, path, or roadway, at any public structure or building, or at or onto the property of another. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a compound bow, crossbow, longbow, or recurve bow at or upon the property of another without permission. It shall be unlawful to discharge a projectile from any of the aforementioned bows within 100 yards of any public road, public building or structure, private residence or structure, or property of another. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of firearms or other instruments or missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in lawful self defense or in the lawful defense of property, or to prohibit the use of firearms or other missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in supervised sport, recreation, or training conducted on safety-inspected and approved ranges and courses, provided the same is not contrary to existing law.
  60. It shall be lawful to hunt deer and bear from a stand elevated at least 10 feet from the ground or within a ten (10) foot perimeter from a stationary, pre-identified and marked point, such point having been established by an easily visible fixed marker, with a .23 or larger caliber. However such rifles can only be loaded while the hunter is in the elevated tree stand, within the 10 feet of the stationary pre-identified and marked point, if ground hunting, or while attempting to recover wounded game within a 300-yard perimeter of the elevated stand or the pre-identified and marked point from which the game was shot.
  61. It is unlawful to hunt or attempt to hunt on a primary or secondary state maintained highway, and within the side ditches of such highways.
  62. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas (check local county ordinance for area description), except deer hunting is permitted with handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloading rifles using a single projectile and all other hunting is allowed with rifles of .22

caliber rimfire or less, handguns, shotguns, and muzzleloading rifles using single or multiple projectiles.

64. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
65. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.
66. Muzzleloaders shall be legal firearms during any firearms season.
67. Shotgun slugs shall be permitted for deer hunting.
68. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than .22 caliber, except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs and coyotes outside the general firearms deer season.
69. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge an air gun, spring gun, or firearm from, along, across or toward, or within 300 yards of any paved public street, highway or road, or any building in the city.
70. It shall be lawful to hunt game species with a muzzleloading rifle during the prescribed open seasons.
71. The discharge or use of a rifle, except for a .22 caliber rim fire is prohibited within the city limits.
72. The use of muzzleloading rifles during the prescribed open seasons for the hunting of game species is permitted in the city; provided, however, that the use of such muzzleloading rifle shall be only from a stand located at least 10 feet above the ground.
73. No rifles for turkey hunting.
74. It is unlawful to hunt deer during the regular hunting season with a rifle of .23 caliber or larger either on public lands or in the area of the county bordered to the north by the James River, to the west by Route 602 from the Willis River, and to the south by Route 45 and Route 684 to the county line (generally known as Cartersville Historic District); except from a tree stand elevated at least 10 feet above the ground. It shall be lawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle from the ground or from a tree stand elevated to any height.
75. No person shall hunt using a rifle larger than a .22 caliber rimfire within 100 yards of any residence or occupied building without the written approval of the owner or lessee of the property. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire from an elevated stand within 100 yards of an adjoining property line without first obtaining written permission of the owner or, if different than the owner, the occupant of the adjoining property or within 100 yards of any public street or primary or secondary state-maintained highway.
76. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during the open seasons for hunting game species from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements). No early muzzleloader season east of the Dismal Swamp Line.
77. It shall be unlawful to engage in hunting with a

firearm within the right-of-way of any primary or secondary highway.

78. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in hunting with a firearm or to discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a dwelling house or occupied building not his or her own.
79. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in hunting with a bow or to discharge arrows from bows within 100 yards of a dwelling house or occupied building not his or her own. A "bow" includes all compound bows, crossbows, longbows, and recurves that have a peak draw weight of 10 pounds or more. The term "arrow" means a shaft-like projectile intended to be shot from a bow.
80. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire, except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs and coyotes between March 1 and August 31.
81. It shall be unlawful to shoot or hunt with a firearm within 100 yards of any regularly occupied structure without written permission of its owner or occupant or within 100 yards of any private road located in a subdivision where lots are 10 acres or less in size without written permission of the owner or occupant.
82. It shall be unlawful to shoot or hunt on any county property including, but not limited to, schools, parks, pools, the courthouse and other county offices.
83. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than a caliber of .22 caliber in the county, except in the hunting of groundhogs, coyotes,

and feral hogs outside the general firearms deer season.

84. It shall be lawful to hunt with rifles larger than .22 caliber only from stands elevated at least 10 feet.
85. Rifles, .23 caliber or larger, may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season provided the hunter is in an elevated stand at least 10 feet above ground level. The rifle may only have a round in its chamber when it is on the elevated stand.
86. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt in the county with a rifle or pistol of a caliber higher than .22 rimfire except as provided hereafter.
  - a. Rifles and pistols greater than .23 caliber shall be permitted for hunting of deer when hunting from an elevated platform at least 8 feet above ground level.
  - b. Turkey shall not be hunted with a rifle greater than .22 caliber.
  - c. Muzzleloading rifles may be used during the prescribed open season.
  - d. Rifles with caliber larger than .22 rimfire may be used for hunting of groundhogs, coyotes, bears, bobcats, feral hogs, and beavers during any respective season as permitted by state law and/or permitted under state law for the control of destructive animals.



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# Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle

Firearm, Hunting Device, and Ammunition	Deer	Bear	Elk	Fall Turkey	Spring Gobbler
Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns) using ammunition loaded with larger than number 2 fine shot	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Air guns (.35 caliber or LARGER)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rifles and pistols using rimfire ammunition and air guns (.35 caliber or SMALLER)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rifles and pistols using centerfire ammunition (.23 caliber or LARGER) Pistols must generate at least 350 foot pounds of energy or greater.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rifles and pistols using centerfire ammunition (SMALLER than .23 caliber)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Muzzleloading firearms – rifles and pistols (.45 caliber or LARGER)	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes
Muzzleloading firearms – rifles and pistols (SMALLER than .45 caliber)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Archery equipment with broadhead widths/expandables that open to 7/8-inch	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes

Unplugged shotguns are legal for hunting nonmigratory game and crows.

Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns) must NOT be larger than 10 gauge and barrels MUST be at least 18 inches. (Rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used)

All game birds and animals may be hunted from a boat (with a SHOTGUN and landowner permission), EXCEPT deer. (Licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters to dispatch trapped animals)

<sup>1</sup> Muzzleloaders used for deer/bear/elk must be loaded from the muzzle and fire only a single shot, single bullet or sabot bullet .35 caliber or larger.

Muzzleloading shotguns/rifles, arrowguns, or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the muzzleloading and firearms seasons.

Archery equipment may include: longbows, recurves, compounds, crossbows, sling-bow and pneumatic powered arrowguns/airbows. (Persons with a disability which hinders them from drawing a bow/crossbow may use an arrowgun during archery seasons when in possession of an authorization form provided by DWR and signed by their physician.

<sup>2</sup> Slingbows may NOT be used for bear or elk.

All methods may be used to hunt nuisance species, crow, and small game.

Please refer to Local Firearms Ordinances for any additional prohibitions that may be in your locality.



# Other Weapons Usage

Unlawful to:

- Hunt migratory game birds with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber, combined, unless allowed by federal regulations and authorized by the Department.
- Discharge a firearm, arrowgun, or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road.
- Cast a light attached to a vehicle or from a vehicle beyond a roadway upon places used by deer without written permission of the landowner or at anytime while in the possession of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, arrowgun, archery tackle, or speargun.
- Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state. However, licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters for the purpose of dispatching trapped animals.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.
- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.

- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Use vehicles or possess firearms (including concealed weapons) while retrieving dogs on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e., machine guns).

## **Proposed Amendment of Chapter 56 of the Code of Caroline County (Hunting) for First Reading**

### §56-1. Hunting with rifles

(a) A person may hunt deer with a rifle only as follows:

(1) For hunting deer with a muzzle-loading rifle during (i) the special muzzle-loading deer season and (ii) the general firearms deer season, the person shall use only the type of muzzle-loading rifles and ammunition authorized by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and in a manner permitted by this Code.

(2) A person may use a rifle other than a muzzle loading rifle to hunt deer during the regular hunting season only as follows:

- a. The rifle shall be a 0.23 caliber or larger;
- b. The person shall hunt only from an elevated stand at least ten (10) feet above ground level;
- c. The rifle may have a round in its chamber only when it is on the elevated stand; and
- d. The person complies with all safety and other regulations of this Code and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

(b) Any person hunting deer in violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor.