



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 427 – Hunting – Deer Management Permits

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 427. The Department issues Deer Management Permits to farmers sustaining damage to their agricultural crops by deer. There were 78 deer management permits issued in Baltimore County in 2018. A total of 413 deer were harvested that year under the authority of those deer management permits.

During the 2018-2019 hunting seasons, there were a total of 4,604 deer harvested in Baltimore County during the three different hunting seasons. The three types of deer hunting seasons in Maryland are archery, muzzleloader and firearms. Deer hunting with archery equipment extends from early September through the end of January. There are two muzzleloader seasons, one in mid-October and a second in late December. Firearm season is two weeks in November and December starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving. There is also a two-day firearms season in January. In Baltimore County, deer hunters are only allowed to hunt deer with shotguns, not rifles.

This bill would allow a person shooting deer under the authority of a Deer Management Permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources to use a rifle in Baltimore County in the locations and under the conditions of the permit.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding Senate Bill 427.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services