

## Chapter 574

(Senate Bill 966)

AN ACT concerning

### ~~Calvert County~~, Charles County, and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a program in certain counties to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population; requiring the Department to give certain applicants priority to participate in the program; authorizing the Department to terminate the program under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to provide a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; authorizing a person to hunt deer with a certain shotgun in certain counties during certain months; authorizing an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit in certain counties to hunt with a certain shotgun during deer season in certain locations, and to hunt deer on certain State lands under certain conditions; prohibiting the Department from requiring an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit in certain counties to renew the permit more frequently than at a certain interval; prohibiting the Department from authorizing an individual in certain counties to hunt deer on Sundays under a Deer Management Permit; ~~defining a certain term~~ authorizing the Department to terminate a certain deer season under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to restrict the lands on which a person may hunt deer under certain circumstances; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to deer hunting in ~~Calvert County~~, Charles County, and St. Mary's County.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources  
Section 10–408.2 and 10–415(d)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources  
Section 10–415(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### Article – Natural Resources

## 10-408.2.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY TO TRAIN RIFLE SHOOTERS TO HUNT DEER FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE DEER POPULATION IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

(B) WHEN SELECTING APPLICANTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO AN APPLICANT WHO HOLDS A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY TERMINATE THE PROGRAM TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE.

(D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2016, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

~~(E)~~ (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A SYSTEM FOR STAGGERING PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM.

## 10-415.

(a) (1) There are the following 3 seasons to hunt deer:

[(1)] (I) Deer bow hunting season;

[(2)] (II) Deer firearms season; and

[(3)] (III) Deer muzzle loader season.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A PERSON MAY HUNT DEER WITH A SHOTGUN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

(D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT" MEANS A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZING THE HOLDER TO HUNT DEER OUTSIDE OF DEER HUNTING SEASON FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING DAMAGE TO CROPS.

(2) ~~IN CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT MAY:

(I) USE A SHOTGUN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HUNT DEER THROUGHOUT DEER SEASON IN THE LOCATIONS AND UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT; AND

(II) HUNT DEER ON STATE AGRICULTURAL CROP LAND LOCATED IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE PERSON IS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT TO HUNT ON PRIVATE LAND IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT IN ~~CALVERT COUNTY,~~ CHARLES COUNTY, OR ST. MARY'S COUNTY TO APPLY FOR RENEWAL MORE THAN ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT AUTHORIZE AN INDIVIDUAL IN CALVERT COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, OR ST. MARY'S COUNTY TO HUNT DEER ON SUNDAYS UNDER A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT.

(5) TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY:

(I) TERMINATE THE DEER HUNTING SEASON ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(II) RESTRICT THE LANDS ON WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HUNT DEER.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.