

Chapter 383

(Senate Bill 401)

AN ACT concerning

Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Management Permit – Firearms

FOR the purpose of authorizing an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit in Charles County and St. Mary's County to use certain firearms to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; and generally relating to the use of certain firearms under a Deer Management Permit in Charles County and St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 10–415(d)(1) and (3)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 10–415(d)(2)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

10–415.

(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) (i) In Charles County and St. Mary's County, an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit may:

1. Use a shotgun or breech loading center fired rifle approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout [deer season] **THE YEAR, INCLUDING ALL DEER HUNTING SEASONS**, in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; and

2. If the individual leases State land in Charles County or St. Mary's County for the purpose of cultivating crops, hunt deer on the land leased by the individual in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit.

(ii) The Department may authorize an individual in Charles County or St. Mary's County to hunt deer on Sundays under a Deer Management Permit.

(3) To protect public safety and welfare, the Department may restrict the lands on which an individual may hunt deer under a Deer Management Permit.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.