

Chapter 460

(House Bill 788)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Hunting – Deer Management Permits

FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to hunt deer under a Deer Management Permit on any Sunday throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons; altering the application of certain provisions of law governing Deer Management Permits in Charles County and St. Mary's County; making certain conforming changes; altering a certain definition; making a certain stylistic change; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to hunting deer under a Deer Management Permit.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10–410(a)(1) and (2) and 10–415(d)(1) and (2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10–415(d)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

10–410.

(a) (1) Except as **OTHERWISE** provided in [paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), and (9) of] this subsection, a person may not hunt any game bird or mammal on Sundays.

(2) The following persons may hunt the specified game birds and mammals on Sundays:

(i) A person using State certified raptors to hunt game birds or mammals during open season;

(ii) An unarmed person participating in an organized fox chase to chase foxes;

(iii) Provided that the provisions of § 10–906(b)(3) of this title are met, a person:

1. Using a regulated shooting ground under § 10–906 of this title to hunt the following pen-reared game birds:

A. Pheasants;

B. Bobwhite quail;

C. Chukar partridge;

D. Hungarian partridge;

E. Tower released flighted mallard ducks; and

F. Turkey on a regulated shooting ground that was permitted to release turkey before September 1, 1992; and

2. Having the written permission of the owner of the land or other person designated by the owner of the land, if the land is owned or leased by a person other than the person hunting on Sundays;

(iv) Subject to the provisions of § 10–411 of this subtitle, in Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, a person hunting deer on private property with a bow and arrow or crossbow during open season on the last three Sundays in October and the second Sunday in November;

(v) In Calvert County, Caroline County, Carroll County, Charles County, Dorchester County, and St. Mary’s County, a person hunting turkey on private property on any Sunday during the spring turkey hunting season; [and]

(vi) In Dorchester County, a person hunting turkey on public land that is designated for hunting by the Department on any Sunday during the spring turkey hunting season; AND

(VII) A PERSON HUNTING DEER UNDER A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT ON ANY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING ALL DEER HUNTING SEASONS.

10–415.

(d) (1) In this subsection, “Deer Management Permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the holder **OR AN AGENT OF 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] **HUNTS DEER UNDER** a Deer Management Permit may:

[1.] (I) Use a shotgun or breech loading center fired rifle approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; and

[2.] (II) [If the individual leases] **ON** State land in Charles County or St. Mary’s County **LEASED BY THE PERMIT HOLDER** for the purpose of cultivating crops, hunt deer on the **LEASED** 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 is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2017.