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Health and Government Operations
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB481 Natural Resources- Antlerless Deer Hunting- Authorization
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 16, 2024

Why We Need This Bill

This bill will incentivize deer hunters to participate in the last three days of hunting season in January.

The deer population on the Eastern Shore is staggering, and legalizing this contest can help manage the deer population which will help decrease crop damage on local farms. Deer hunting is also a source of food for many families on the Eastern Shore, and this incentivization could provide a family with some extra money should they win the raffle.

All hunters who participate must abide by all Maryland Game laws, tag & register each deer, and stay within the legal bagging limit, which varies by County and hunting tool used. Additionally, all deer can only be harvested in participating counties.

Maryland Code does not currently allow a person to sell, offer for sale, barter, or exchange any game bird or mammal taken from the wild. The concept of a lottery is not specified, and this bill would specify that the lottery in this contest is legal.

What Does This Bill Do

This bill will clarify the legality of deer hunting contests where hunters are given a raffle ticket to be put in a lottery per every bagged deer provided to potentially win \$1,000 during the last three days of the January hunting season.

These contests will incentivize hunters to come out for the last three days of the hunting.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a FAVORABLE vote on HB481.