

SENATE BILL 944

M2

9lr3134

By: **Senators Dyson, Colburn, and Middleton**
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2009
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties – Deer Hunting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a
4 program in certain counties to train sharpshooters for the purpose of controlling
5 the deer population; requiring the Department to give certain applicants
6 priority to participate in the program; requiring the Department to adopt
7 certain regulations; authorizing a person to hunt deer with a certain shotgun in
8 certain counties during certain months; authorizing a person who holds a Deer
9 Damage Permit in certain counties to hunt with a certain shotgun during deer
10 season in certain locations, and to hunt deer on certain State lands under
11 certain conditions; prohibiting the Department from requiring a person who
12 holds a Deer Damage Permit in certain counties to renew the permit more
13 frequently than at a certain interval; defining a certain term; and generally
14 relating to the regulation by the Department of Natural Resources of deer
15 hunting in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Natural Resources
18 Section 10–408.2 and 10–415(d)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Natural Resources
23 Section 10–415(a)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Natural Resources**2 **10–408.2.**

3 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM IN CALVERT,
4 CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES TO TRAIN SHARPSHOOTERS FOR THE
5 PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE DEER POPULATION IN CALVERT, CHARLES,
6 AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES.

7 (B) WHEN SELECTING APPLICANTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
8 PROGRAM UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
9 GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICANTS WHO HOLD A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT, AS
10 DEFINED IN § 10–415(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
12 THIS SECTION.

13 **10–415.**

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

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

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

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

18 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A
19 PERSON MAY HUNT DEER WITH A SHOTGUN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
20 FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH IN CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S
21 COUNTIES.

22 (D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “DEER DAMAGE PERMIT” MEANS A
23 PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO AN AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNER OR
24 LESSEE IN THE STATE EXPERIENCING SEVERE CROP DAMAGE FROM DEER THAT
25 ALLOWS THE LANDOWNER OR LESSEE TO HUNT DEER OUTSIDE OF DEER
26 HUNTING SEASON ACCORDING TO CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT.

27 (2) A PERSON WHO HOLDS A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT IN CALVERT
28 COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, OR ST. MARY’S COUNTY MAY:

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

1 **(II) HUNT DEER ON STATE LAND LOCATED IN CALVERT,**
2 **CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE PERSON IS**
3 **AUTHORIZED UNDER THE DEER DAMAGE PERMIT TO HUNT ON PRIVATE LAND**
4 **IN CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES.**

5 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE A PERSON WHO HOLDS**
6 **A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT IN CALVERT COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, OR ST.**
7 **MARY’S COUNTY TO APPLY FOR RENEWAL MORE THAN ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2009.