

SENATE BILL 959

M2

8lr3782
CF 8lr3095

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Hunting – Black Bears**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from hunting or participating in a hunt for black
4 bears without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Natural Resources;
5 establishing an exception, applicable in Allegany County and Garrett County and if
6 the Department uses a lottery process to issue a limited number of permits, that
7 authorizes a person to hunt black bears on property the person owns during the open
8 season without a permit under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
9 hunting black bears.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 10–416.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 **10–416.1.**

19 **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON**
20 **MAY NOT HUNT OR PARTICIPATE IN A HUNT FOR BLACK BEARS UNLESS THE PERSON**
21 **FIRST OBTAINS A PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT.**

22 **(B) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY:**

23 **(I) IN ALLEGANY COUNTY AND GARRETT COUNTY; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) IF THE DEPARTMENT USES A LOTTERY PROCESS TO ISSUE A**
2 **LIMITED NUMBER OF BLACK BEAR HUNTING PERMITS.**

3 **(2) A PERSON MAY HUNT BLACK BEARS ON PROPERTY THE PERSON**
4 **OWNS DURING THE OPEN SEASON WITHOUT A PERMIT IF:**

5 **(I) THE PERSON'S PROPERTY IS AT LEAST 100 ACRES IN SIZE;**
6 **AND**

7 **(II) THE PERSON COMPLIES WITH ALL OTHER APPLICABLE**
8 **LAWS, INCLUDING THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY THE**
9 **DEPARTMENT.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2018.