

# HOUSE BILL 173

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By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –  
Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying certain provisions of law governing Sunday hunting in the  
4 State; establishing the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to allow  
5 Sunday hunting under certain circumstances; authorizing Sunday hunting on  
6 certain public land; altering the application of authorized Sunday hunting to junior  
7 hunts; prohibiting the hunting of migratory game birds on Sunday; prohibiting  
8 hunting on certain public land on Sunday; and generally relating to Sunday hunting  
9 in the State.

10 BY repealing

11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 10–410(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 10–410(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 10–410.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may not hunt  
2 any game bird or mammal on Sundays.

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

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

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

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

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

13 A. Pheasants;

14 B. Bobwhite quail;

15 C. Chukar partridge;

16 D. Hungarian partridge;

17 E. Tower released flighted mallard ducks; and

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

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

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

28 (v) In Calvert County, Caroline County, Carroll County, Charles  
29 County, Dorchester County, and Kent County, a person hunting turkey on private property  
30 on any Sunday during the spring turkey hunting season;

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

1 hunting season; and

2 (vii) A person hunting deer under a Deer Management Permit on any  
3 Sunday throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons.

4 (3) Subject to the provisions of § 10–415 of this subtitle, in Calvert County,  
5 Caroline County, Charles County, Harford County, Queen Anne’s County, Somerset  
6 County, and Worcester County, a person may hunt deer on private property on:

7 (i) The first Sunday of the bow hunting season in November; and

8 (ii) Each Sunday in the deer firearms season.

9 (4) Provided that the provisions of § 10–415 of this subtitle are met and  
10 subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer  
11 on private property on the first Sunday of:

12 (i) The bow hunting season in November; and

13 (ii) The deer firearms season.

14 (5) Subject to paragraphs (10) and (11) of this subsection, the Sunday deer  
15 hunting provisions under paragraph (4) of this subsection do not apply:

16 (i) In Baltimore, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, and Prince George’s  
17 counties; and

18 (ii) In Baltimore City.

19 (6) (i) This paragraph applies only in Carroll County.

20 (ii) Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department  
21 may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property from the first Sunday in  
22 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive.

23 (7) A person who is 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer with a firearm  
24 on a Sunday through participation in the junior deer hunt established under § 10–405(a) of  
25 this subtitle.

26 (8) (i) This paragraph applies only in Allegany County, Cecil County,  
27 Garrett County, and Washington County.

28 (ii) The Department may allow a person to hunt any game bird or  
29 game mammal, except migratory game birds, on a Sunday during the open season for that  
30 game bird or game mammal on:

31 1. Private property, subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle; and

1    2.      Public land that is designated for Sunday hunting by the  
2 Department.

3                    (9)    (i)      This paragraph applies only in Frederick County.

4    (ii)     Subject to § 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department may allow a  
5 person to hunt deer on a Sunday from the first Sunday in October through the second  
6 Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive, on:

7    1.      Private property, subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle; and

8    2.      Public land that is designated for Sunday hunting by the  
9 Department.

10                   (10)   (i)      This paragraph applies only in Kent County.

11    (ii)     Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle and  
12 subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on  
13 a Sunday on private property throughout all deer hunting seasons.

14    (iii)    1.      Except as provided in subparagraph 2 of this  
15 subparagraph, during firearms season, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer  
16 on a Sunday only from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

17    2.      The time restrictions under this subparagraph do not  
18 apply:

19    A.      To a participant in the junior deer hunt under § 10–405(a)  
20 of this subtitle; and

21    B.      On private land only on one Sunday designated by the  
22 Department during the firearms season.

23                   (11)   (i)      This paragraph applies only in Montgomery County.

24    (ii)     Subject to § 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department may allow a  
25 person to hunt deer on a Sunday throughout the deer hunting season on private property,  
26 subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle.

27    (iii)    1.      Except as provided in subparagraph 2 of this  
28 subparagraph, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday under this  
29 paragraph only from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

30    2.      The time restrictions under this subparagraph do not  
31 apply:

1 A. To a participant in the junior deer hunt under § 10–405(a)  
 2 of this subtitle;

3 B. On private land only on one Sunday designated by the  
 4 Department during deer bow hunting season; and

5 C. On private land only on one Sunday designated by the  
 6 Department during the firearms season.

7 (12) (i) This paragraph applies only in Dorchester County.

8 (ii) Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department  
 9 may allow a person to hunt deer on private property on the second and third Sunday of the  
 10 deer firearms season.

11 (iii) Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department  
 12 may allow a person to hunt deer on private property on a Sunday during the bow hunting  
 13 season from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January the  
 14 following year, inclusive.

15 (iv) Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department  
 16 may allow a person to hunt deer on private property on a Sunday during the deer muzzle  
 17 loader season.

18 (13) (i) This paragraph applies only in St. Mary’s County.

19 (ii) The Department may allow a person to hunt any game bird or  
 20 game mammal, except migratory game birds, on a Sunday during the open season for that  
 21 game bird or game mammal on:

22 1. Except in State parks, public land designated by the  
 23 Department; or

24 2. Private property, subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle.

25 (14) (i) This paragraph applies only in Wicomico County.

26 (ii) Subject to § 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department may allow a  
 27 person to hunt deer on private property on the second Sunday in deer firearms season from  
 28 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.]

29 **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT ON EACH**  
 30 **SUNDAY OF THE GAME BIRD AND GAME MAMMAL SEASONS IN:**

31 **(I) ALLEGANY COUNTY;**

- 1                   **(II) CECIL COUNTY;**  
2                   **(III) GARRETT COUNTY;**  
3                   **(IV) ST. MARY'S COUNTY; AND**  
4                   **(V) WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

5                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER ON**  
6 **EACH SUNDAY OF THE DEER HUNTING SEASONS FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY IN**  
7 **OCTOBER THROUGH THE SECOND SUNDAY IN JANUARY, INCLUSIVE, IN:**

- 8                   **(I) CARROLL COUNTY;**  
9                   **(II) DORCHESTER COUNTY; AND**  
10                  **(III) FREDERICK COUNTY.**

11                  **(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE**  
12 **DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER ON EACH SUNDAY OF THE DEER**  
13 **HUNTING SEASONS FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30 A.M. IN:**

- 14                   1.   **KENT COUNTY; AND**  
15                   2.   **MONTGOMERY COUNTY.**

16                  **(II) THE TIME RESTRICTIONS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT**  
17 **APPLY:**

- 18                   1.   **TO A PARTICIPANT IN A JUNIOR DEER HUNT**  
19 **AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**  
20                   2.   **ON ONE SUNDAY DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT**  
21 **DURING THE DEER FIREARMS SEASON;**  
22                   3.   **IN KENT COUNTY, ON EACH SUNDAY DURING THE**  
23 **DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON AND THE DEER MUZZLE LOADER SEASON; AND**  
24                   4.   **IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ON ONE SUNDAY**  
25 **DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON.**

26                  **(4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER DURING**  
27 **THE DEER FIREARMS SEASON:**

1 (I) ON EACH SUNDAY IN:

- 2 1. CALVERT COUNTY;
- 3 2. CAROLINE COUNTY;
- 4 3. CHARLES COUNTY;
- 5 4. HARFORD COUNTY;
- 6 5. QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY;
- 7 6. SOMERSET COUNTY; AND
- 8 7. WORCESTER COUNTY;

9 (II) ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN:

- 10 1. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY; AND
- 11 2. TALBOT COUNTY; AND

12 (III) IN WICOMICO COUNTY, ON:

- 13 1. THE FIRST SUNDAY; AND
- 14 2. THE SECOND SUNDAY FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE
- 15 SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

16 (5) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER DURING

17 THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON ON:

18 (I) THE LAST THREE SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER AND THE FIRST

19 TWO SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER IN:

- 20 1. CALVERT COUNTY;
- 21 2. CAROLINE COUNTY;
- 22 3. CHARLES COUNTY;
- 23 4. HARFORD COUNTY;

1                                   5.     **QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY;**

2                                   6.     **SOMERSET COUNTY;**

3                                   7.     **TALBOT COUNTY;**

4                                   8.     **WICOMICO COUNTY; AND**

5                                   9.     **WORCESTER COUNTY; AND**

6                           (II)   **THE FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER IN ANNE ARUNDEL**  
7 **COUNTY.**

8                           (6)   **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT TURKEY ON**  
9 **EACH SUNDAY OF THE SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON IN:**

10                           (I)    **CALVERT COUNTY;**

11                           (II)   **CAROLINE COUNTY;**

12                           (III)  **CARROLL COUNTY;**

13                           (IV)  **CHARLES COUNTY;**

14                           (V)    **DORCHESTER COUNTY; AND**

15                           (VI)  **KENT COUNTY.**

16                           (7)   **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE,**  
17 **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON WITH A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT TO**  
18 **SHOOT DEER ON ANY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
19 **TERMS OF THE PERMIT.**

20                           (8)   **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON USING A STATE**  
21 **CERTIFIED RAPTOR TO HUNT GAME BIRDS OR MAMMALS ON EACH SUNDAY DURING**  
22 **THE OPEN SEASON FOR THE GAME BIRDS OR MAMMALS.**

23                           (9)   **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW AN UNARMED PERSON**  
24 **PARTICIPATING IN AN ORGANIZED FOX CHASE TO CHASE FOXES ON SUNDAY.**

25                           (10)  **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON SHOOTING**  
26 **PEN-REARED GAME BIRDS OR TOWER-RELEASED FLIGHTED MALLARD DUCKS TO**



1 HUNT ON SUNDAY AT A REGULATED SHOOTING GROUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH §  
2 10-906 OF THIS TITLE.

3 (11) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON WHO IS 16 YEARS OLD  
4 OR YOUNGER TO HUNT ON SUNDAY IF PARTICIPATING IN A JUNIOR HUNT  
5 ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

6 (12) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (8) THROUGH (10) OF THIS  
7 SUBSECTION AND SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON MAY  
8 NOT HUNT ON SUNDAY IN:

9 (I) BALTIMORE CITY;

10 (II) BALTIMORE COUNTY;

11 (III) HOWARD COUNTY; OR

12 (IV) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

13 (13) A PERSON MAY NOT HUNT MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS ON SUNDAY.

14 (14) A PERSON MAY NOT HUNT ON PUBLIC LAND WITHIN THE STATE  
15 PARK SYSTEM ON SUNDAY.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
17 1, 2020.