

Chapter 454

(Senate Bill 427)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore County – Hunting – Deer Management Permits

FOR the purpose of authorizing an individual who hunts under a Deer Management Permit in Baltimore County to use certain firearms to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; authorizing an individual who hunts under a Deer Management Permit in Baltimore County to hunt deer on certain lands under certain conditions; and generally relating to hunting deer under a Deer Management Permit in Baltimore County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10–415(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapters 175 and 176 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2019)

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

Article – Natural Resources

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) In **BALTIMORE COUNTY**, Charles County, Calvert County, St. Mary’s County, and Harford County, an individual who hunts deer under a Deer Management Permit may:

(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

(ii) On State land in **BALTIMORE COUNTY**, Charles County, Calvert County, St. Mary’s County, or Harford County leased by the permit holder for the purpose of cultivating crops, hunt deer on the leased land in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the 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.

(4) (i) This paragraph applies only in Frederick County.

(ii) Subject to the conditions set forth in a Deer Management Permit, a permittee may use a rifle approved by the Department to harvest deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons.

(iii) In Frederick County Zone 1, as defined in COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(g), an agent of a permittee may use a rifle to harvest deer throughout the year.

(iv) 1. This subparagraph applies only in Frederick County Zone 2, as defined in COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(h).

2. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 3 of this subparagraph, an agent of a permittee may use a rifle to harvest deer in a period beginning October 1 and ending March 31.

3. In a deer firearms season, an agent of a permittee may harvest deer only by using the weapon approved for that season.

(v) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this subsection.

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

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.