



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 293 – Natural Resources – Organized Hunting Contests – Restriction

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding HB 293.

This bill would prohibit a person from sponsoring, conducting, or participating in an organized contest involving the killing of coyote, fox, or raccoon for prizes or monetary rewards. Nuisance removal by landowners as well as dog training and performance competitions may not be construed to be a part of this new prohibition.

The department does not regulate furbearer hunting contests, but any event that involves coyote, fox, raccoon, and other furbearing species is subject to permitting requirements. The same permitting requirements also apply to dog training and field-trial activity. The department requires all events to comply with the seasons, bag limits and other laws and regulations, and has no role in determining if prizes or awards are offered in these events.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKittrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

cc: The Honorable Dana Stein

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