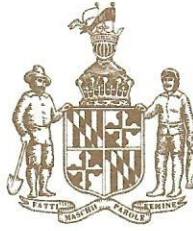


TODD B. MORGAN  
*Legislative District 29C*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

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Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HB683 Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations**

Honorable Chairman, Vice-Chair, and members of the ENT committee:

I present for you today HB683 Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License - Alterations

Maryland instituted the apprentice hunting license in 2017 to encourage people to try the sport of hunting before investing their money and time. An Apprentice Hunting License is available to first-time hunters who have never hunted before. This license requires:

- an online hunter safety course prior to purchasing the license
- the apprentice to hunt with a Maryland resident at least 18 years old, who possesses a valid Maryland Full Hunting License, and will provide direct supervision of the apprentice
- the apprentice and mentor hunter hunt in close proximity so that the mentor can take immediate control of the archery device or firearm

The biggest complaint received about the program is that junior hunters (16 and under) do not have enough time to experience hunting during the season (1-year cycle). This is often due to the program regulations and life activities. Additionally, some juniors are not ready for a full hunter license or are unable to complete the necessary requirements for a full license, particularly the safety courses, in time to obtain a full license during the next season.

Therefore, since we want to share this sport with youth in a safe and teachable way, expanding the program to enable junior hunters to obtain an apprentice hunting license more than one-year, is a practical way to ensure that. It allows juniors to enjoy the sport under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter, while gaining confidence and instruction to be a safe and responsible hunter.

In addition to the yearly license fee, the bill requires the junior hunter to re-take the safety course each year to acquire an apprentice license.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd B. Morgan  
Delegate, Calvert/St. Mary's Counties (29C)