



P.O. Box 501
Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

February 22, 2023

SUPPORT

House Bill 683 (Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License Alternations)

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND represent the interests of Maryland's hunting community at both the State and local level. Few realize that hunters underwrite almost 100% of all wildlife management and research costs through their purchase of hunting licenses, stamps, and equipment. For the record: (1) hunters do so willingly b/c of **American System of Conservation Funding**, a user-pay model celebrating its 85th Anniversary which also underscores the noble story of hunters as America's original conservationists (link below); and (2) hunting in Maryland is a powerful economic engine as reported by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (link below).

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/introduction_to_american_conservation_funding_.pdf
<https://congressionalsportsmen.org/uploads/page/Maryland-Factsheet.pdf>

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Economics of Hunting in Maryland

Spending per day: \$2.2 million

Salaries and Wages: \$387 million

Federal Taxes: \$96 million

State & Local Taxes: \$84 million

Ripple Effect: \$1.25 billion

Source: USFWS

HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND support House Bill 683 as introduced. Our rationale in supporting is consistent with and responsive to the written testimony provided by the lead sponsor, the Honorable Todd B. Morgan who states:

“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, particular 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.”

For the above reasons and more, the HUNTERS OF MARYLAND respectfully request a favorable vote by the House Environment & Transportation Committee.

William R. Miles, Advocate