

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
Department of Natural Resources
(DLS Control No. 14-257)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation requires the Wildlife and Heritage Service under the Department of Natural Resources to offer periodic training on the safe and appropriate use of rifles for controlling the deer population pursuant to Chapter 574 of 2014.

The regulation presents no legal issue of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

Department of Natural Resources:

Wildlife: Wildlife Possession: COMAR 08.03.09.11

Legal Analysis

Summary of Regulation

The regulation requires the service to schedule the training as needed and to give priority for participation to persons who hold a deer management permit for the crop damage harvest.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The department cites § 10-408 of the Natural Resources Article as authority for the regulation. That provision of law requires the department to adopt regulations governing the weapons that may be used when hunting designated wildlife. In addition, the department has agreed to cite as authority § 10-408.2 of that article, as enacted by Chapter 574 of 2014. That provision of law requires the department to establish a training program to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population in Charles and St. Mary's counties (and to prioritize participation by deer management permit holders). This authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal impact on the department and no impact on local governments. The Department of Legislative Services generally concurs, noting that the regulation should have no impact at all on the department. The regulation implements Chapter 574 of 2014; the fiscal and policy note for SB 966 of 2014 (enacted as Chapter 574) accounted for the fiscal impact of that legislation. The fiscal and policy note identified additional personnel costs associated with training required by the bill and with issuance of deer management permits. This regulation should not have any independent impact.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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