
By: **Delegates Edwards and Poole**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1998

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting Accidents - Duty to Render Assistance - Notification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons to render assistance to a person injured
4 in a hunting accident; requiring persons involved in a hunting accident to
5 exchange certain identifying information; establishing notification procedures
6 for persons involved in a hunting accident; establishing classes of hunting
7 accidents; defining terms; and generally relating to hunting accidents.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 10-424 and 10-424.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-424.

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) "HEALTH RELATED INCIDENT" MEANS ANY HEALTH IMPAIRMENT
20 WHOSE SYMPTOMS MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN THE FIELD WHILE HUNTING AND
21 RESULTS IN AN INJURY OR DEATH.

22 (3) (I) "HUNTING ACCIDENT" MEANS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A
23 PERSON IS INJURED BY A FIREARM OR A BOW AND ARROW SHOT BY A HUNTER
24 WHILE HUNTING WILDLIFE OR INCURS A SELF-INFLICTED INJURY WITH A FIREARM
25 OR A BOW AND ARROW WHILE HUNTING WILDLIFE.

26 (II) "HUNTING ACCIDENTS" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CLASSES
27 OF ACCIDENTS:

1 1. CLASS A: AN ACCIDENT THAT OCCURS IN THE FIELD
2 WHILE HUNTING INVOLVING A VICTIM AND A PERSON WHO SHOOTS EITHER A
3 FIREARM OR A BOW AND ARROW.

4 2. CLASS B: A SELF-INFLICTED ACCIDENT THAT OCCURS IN
5 THE FIELD WHILE HUNTING.

6 3. CLASS C: AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE DISCHARGE OF A
7 FIREARM OR A BOW AND ARROW THAT CAUSES THE INJURY OR DEATH OF A PERSON
8 THAT RELATES TO A HUNTING ACTIVITY BUT DOES NOT OCCUR WHILE HUNTING.

9 4. CLASS D: OTHER HUNTING RELATED ACCIDENTS OR
10 HEALTH RELATED INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR IN THE FIELD WHILE HUNTING.

11 5. CLASS E: AN ACCIDENT THAT OCCURS IN THE FIELD AND
12 OUTSIDE OF THE NORMALLY PRESCRIBED HUNTING SEASONS AND TIMES.

13 (B) While engaged in hunting or pursuing any wildlife, a person may not:

14 (1) Carelessly or negligently shoot, wound, or kill another person; or

15 (2) Intentionally or willfully destroy or damage any real property,
16 personal property, or farm livestock of another person.

17 (C) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION OR
18 WHO HAS WITNESSED THE INFLICTION OF INJURY TO A PERSON WITH A FIREARM OR
19 A BOW AND ARROW WHILE HUNTING WILDLIFE, SHALL RENDER REASONABLE
20 ASSISTANCE TO THE PERSON INJURED AND, IF THE PERSON REQUESTS MEDICAL
21 TREATMENT OR IT IS APPARENT THAT MEDICAL TREATMENT IS NECESSARY,
22 ARRANGE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE PERSON TO A PHYSICIAN, SURGEON,
23 OR HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

24 (2) ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE HUNTING ACCIDENT SHALL
25 EXCHANGE IN WRITING THEIR NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

26 (D) (1) IN ADDITION TO A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF
27 THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO INCURS A SELF-INFLICTED INJURY WHILE ENGAGED
28 IN HUNTING WILDLIFE SHALL, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, NOTIFY THE NATURAL
29 RESOURCES POLICE OR ANY STATE, COUNTY, OR LOCAL POLICE AGENCY.

30 (2) (I) A PERSON INVOLVED IN A HUNTING ACCIDENT ON STATE
31 PROPERTY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT WITHIN 48 HOURS TO THE NATURAL
32 RESOURCES POLICE ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

33 (II) IF A PERSON IS PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF SUBMITTING THE
34 REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THAT PERSON
35 SHALL DESIGNATE AN AGENT TO FILE THE REPORT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME.

1 (3) A STATE, COUNTY, OR LOCAL POLICE AGENCY SHALL PROMPTLY
2 NOTIFY THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OF A HUNTING ACCIDENT AND IDENTIFY
3 THE CLASS OF HUNTING ACCIDENT.

4 10-424.1.

5 In addition to any other penalty provided in this title, the Department may
6 suspend the hunting license of a person who is charged with a violation of §
7 10-424(B)(1) of this title pending the disposition of the criminal proceeding against
8 the person.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 1998.