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By: **Delegate Linton**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wildlife Management Plans**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that all State and local public land and land owned by  
4 certain charitable organizations is subject to certain wildlife management plan  
5 requirements; requiring certain State and local units and certain charitable  
6 organizations to adopt and implement a wildlife management plan in  
7 consultation with the Department of Natural Resources; requiring the  
8 Department of Natural Resources to develop certain eligibility criteria for  
9 certain wildlife management plans; requiring the Department of Natural  
10 Resources to certify a certain wildlife management plan; requiring the  
11 governing body of a county or a municipal corporation to grant a property tax  
12 credit for a certain amount to an owner of certain property that adopts and  
13 implements a certain wildlife management plan; requiring that the valuation  
14 and assessment of property with a certain wildlife management plan be  
15 assessed in a certain manner; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to  
16 adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to  
17 adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to  
18 wildlife management plans.

19 BY adding to  
20 Article - Natural Resources  
21 Section 10-1201 through 10-1203, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
22 "Subtitle 12. Wildlife Management Plan"  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

25 BY adding to  
26 Article - Tax - Property  
27 Section 9-109  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Natural Resources**

## 2 SUBTITLE 12. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

3 10-1201.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
5 INDICATED.6 (B) "CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED  
7 UNDER § 501(C) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.8 (C) "WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN" MEANS A PLAN TO CONTROL THE  
9 POPULATION OF WILDLIFE ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REAL PROPERTY.

10 10-1202.

11 (A) PUBLIC LAND OWNED OR MANAGED BY STATE OR LOCAL UNITS OR LAND  
12 OWNED BY A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION IS SUBJECT TO THE WILDLIFE  
13 MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.14 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR  
15 STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC LAND AND LAND OWNED BY A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION  
16 THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.17 (C) THE STATE OR LOCAL UNIT OR THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, IN  
18 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A  
19 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAND THAT MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA  
20 EACH YEAR ON OR BEFORE JULY 1.21 (D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS  
22 SECTION.

23 10-1203.

24 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE  
25 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN TAX CREDIT DESCRIBED IN § 9-109 OF THE TAX -  
26 PROPERTY ARTICLE.

27 (2) THE CRITERIA SHALL INCLUDE CRITERIA FOR:

28 (I) THE POPULATION CONTROL OF DEER; AND

29 (II) A MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENT OF ELIGIBLE PROPERTY.

30 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
31 FOR A PROPERTY BEFORE THE TAX CREDIT DESCRIBED IN § 9-109 OF THE TAX -  
32 PROPERTY ARTICLE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE PROPERTY.33 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT  
34 THIS SECTION.

1           (2)     THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH BY REGULATION, EFFECTIVE  
2 ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EACH YEAR, THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WILDLIFE  
3 MANAGEMENT PLAN TAX CREDIT.

4   **Article - Tax - Property**

5 9-109.

6     (A)     IN THIS SECTION, "WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN" HAS THE MEANING  
7 STATED IN § 10-1201 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE.

8     (B)     THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
9 SHALL GRANT A CREDIT AGAINST THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
10 PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON PRIVATE REAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH A WILDLIFE  
11 MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS  
12 BEEN ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED.

13    (C)     THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
14 GRANTED AGAINST 10% OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX THAT WOULD  
15 OTHERWISE BE DUE.

16    (D)     REAL PROPERTY WITH AN APPROVED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
17 SHALL BE VALUED AND ASSESSED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER REAL PROPERTY  
18 IN THE SAME COUNTY.

19     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 July 1, 1999.