

# SENATE BILL 588

M2

2lr2023  
CF HB 739

---

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2012

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Bow Hunting – Possession of Handguns for Protection**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from restricting  
4 certain licensed bow hunters from carrying a handgun under certain  
5 circumstances; defining a certain term; making stylistic changes; and generally  
6 relating to the use of weapons while hunting wildlife.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Natural Resources  
9 Section 10–408  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 10–408.

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “HANDGUN” MEANS A FIREARM:**

17 **(1) WITH A BARREL LENGTH NOT EXCEEDING 6 INCHES; AND**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1                   **(2) THAT DOES NOT HAVE A SCOPE OR AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE**  
2 **ATTACHED.**

3                   **(B) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
4 **SUBSECTION, THE Department shall [prescribe]:**

5                               **(I) PRESCRIBE** by regulation the means or weapons for  
6 hunting designated wildlife[. The Department shall set]; **AND**

7                               **(II) SET** forth any restrictions relating to weapons used to hunt  
8 designated wildlife, including the amount and size of ammunition for designated game  
9 birds or mammals.

10                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT PROHIBIT A LICENSED BOW**  
11 **HUNTER FROM OPENLY CARRYING A HANDGUN THAT THE HUNTER IS**  
12 **OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO CARRY UNDER § 4-203 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW**  
13 **ARTICLE IF THE BOW HUNTER:**

14                               **(I) IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD;**

15                               **(II) IS HUNTING IN DEER MANAGEMENT REGION A AS**  
16 **DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDE TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING;**

17                               **(III) IS CARRYING THE HANDGUN FOR PERSONAL**  
18 **PROTECTION; AND**

19                               **(IV) DOES NOT USE THE HANDGUN TO KILL WILDLIFE**  
20 **WOUNDED BY A VERTICAL BOW OR CROSSBOW.**

21                   **(C)** The Department shall make the regulations available for distribution  
22 with each hunting license purchased.

23                   **(D)** This section does not authorize the Department to restrict the use of  
24 firearms except in the activity of hunting designated wildlife.

25                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2012.