

# HOUSE BILL 1547

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By: ~~Delegate O'Donnell~~ Delegates O'Donnell, Beidle, Cane, Holmes, Jacobs, Norman, Otto, Vitale, Weir, and Wilson

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2014

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2014

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting Licenses – Exemption for Retired Members of the Armed Forces**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an exemption from the requirement to obtain a hunting  
4 license under certain circumstances for a person who is a former member of the  
5 armed forces of the United States; providing that the exemption applies only to  
6 hunting on certain farmland that is under certain ownership; requiring a person  
7 who hunts under the exemption to possess certain identification, written  
8 permission, and, under certain circumstances, hunting stamps; and generally  
9 relating to exemptions from the requirement to obtain a hunting license.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 10–301(b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 10–301(c)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

3 **Article – Natural Resources**

4 10–301.

5 (b) To provide a fund to pay the expense of protecting and managing wildlife,  
6 and preventing unauthorized persons from hunting them, a person may not hunt or  
7 attempt to hunt during open season and in any permitted manner any game birds and  
8 mammals in the State without first having procured either a resident or nonresident  
9 hunter's license. A person may not hunt or attempt to hunt nongame birds and  
10 mammals in Baltimore County or Frederick County without first obtaining a license.  
11 A permanent resident of a government reservation may obtain a resident hunter's  
12 license.

13 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the  
14 following persons are not required to obtain a hunter's license, bow and arrow stamp,  
15 black powder stamp, or bonus antlered deer stamp:

16 (i) With respect to hunting on farmland only:

17 1. The resident owner of the farmland and the owner's  
18 spouse, child, and child's spouse;

19 2. A tenant and the tenant's spouse, child, and child's  
20 spouse. A tenant is a person holding land under a lease, or a sharecropper who resides  
21 in a dwelling on the land, but a tenant does not include any employee of the owner or  
22 tenant; and

23 3. A nonresident owner of a parcel of farmland and the  
24 owner's spouse, child, and child's spouse if:

25 A. The parcel of farmland is located in Maryland and an  
26 adjacent state;

27 B. The owner's primary residence is on the parcel of  
28 farmland; and

29 C. The adjacent state extends similar privileges to a  
30 resident of Maryland;

31 (ii) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United  
32 States while on leave in the State, during the resident's leave period, if, while hunting,  
33 the resident possesses a copy of the resident's official leave order;

1 (iii) Any person serving in the armed forces of the United States  
2 who has a service-connected disability, if, while hunting, the person possesses valid  
3 military identification; and

4 (iv) Any unarmed person participating in an organized foxhunt.

5 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in  
6 order to qualify for the license and stamp exemption in accordance with paragraph (1)  
7 of this subsection, a child or child's spouse must be eligible to purchase a junior  
8 resident or junior nonresident hunting license.

9 (ii) If a child or child's spouse is ineligible to purchase a junior  
10 resident or junior nonresident hunting license, the child or child's spouse shall qualify  
11 for the license and stamp exemption if the child or child's spouse:

- 12 1. Lives on the farmland;
- 13 2. Worked on the farmland for 30 or more days during  
14 the prior 12-month period; or
- 15 3. Manages the farmland.

16 **(3) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "ARMED FORCES" INCLUDES THE**  
17 **U.S. COAST GUARD AND THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE.**

18 **(II) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,**  
19 **A PERSON WHO IS A RETIRED FORMER MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE**  
20 **UNITED STATES IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A HUNTING LICENSE TO HUNT ON**  
21 **FARMLAND THAT IS:**

- 22 1. **IN ACTIVE FARMING STATUS; AND**
- 23 2. **OWNED BY THE PERSON OR THE PERSON'S**  
24 **SPOUSE, CHILD, CHILD'S SPOUSE, PARENT, GRANDPARENT, SIBLING, NIECE, OR**  
25 **NEPHEW.**

26 **(III) A PERSON WHO HUNTS ON FARMLAND WITHOUT A**  
27 **HUNTING LICENSE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL POSSESS:**

28 1. **THE ~~OFFICIAL~~ ~~MILITARY~~ RETIRED-MILITARY**  
29 **IDENTIFICATION CARD OF THE PERSON;**

30 2. **WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER OF THE**  
31 **FARM PROPERTY TO HUNT ON THE PROPERTY DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF**  
32 **TIME; AND**

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**3. ANY REQUIRED HUNTING STAMPS.**

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SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
3 October 1, 2014.

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Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.