

## Chapter 476

(Senate Bill 231)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Natural Resources  
Section 10–408  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Natural Resources**

10–408.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.**