

HOUSE BILL 177

M2

7lr1992

By: **Delegates McKay, Beitzel, and Buckel**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Killing or Wounding Black Bears – Penalties – Exemption for Protection of Bee**
3 **Colonies**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of
5 the life of a bee in a bee colony from certain penalties; and generally relating to
6 penalties for killing or wounding a black bear.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 10–423
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 10–423.

16 (a) Any penalty imposed under this section does not apply to an individual who
17 kills or wounds a black bear in defense of the individual's own life, the lives of other
18 individuals, or the lives of animals, **INCLUDING BEES IN A BEE COLONY**, on the
19 individual's property.

20 (b) If the Secretary adopts any regulation, including an emergency regulation,
21 under § 10–205 of this title or § 10–405 of this subtitle to prohibit the hunting, possessing,
22 selling, purchasing, shipping, carrying, transporting, or exporting of black bears, a person
23 who violates the regulation is subject to the following penalties:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) For a first offense, a fine not exceeding \$1,500, imprisonment not
2 exceeding 6 months, or both; and

3 (2) For a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$2,000,
4 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year, or both.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
6 1, 2017.