

# HOUSE BILL 177

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7lr1992

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

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 8, 2017

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

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of exempting an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of  
5 the life of a honey bee in a certain bee colony from certain penalties, subject to a  
6 certain exception; establishing that the exemption does not apply if the individual  
7 has not taken certain actions; and generally relating to penalties for killing or  
8 wounding a black bear.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 10–423  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 10–423.

18 (a) **(1)** ~~Any~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
19 **SUBSECTION, ANY** penalty imposed under this section does not apply to an individual who  
20 kills or wounds a black bear in defense of the individual's own life, the lives of other

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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 individuals, or the lives of animals, **INCLUDING HONEY BEES IN A BEE COLONY**  
 2 **MANAGED BY THE INDIVIDUAL**, on the individual's property.

3 **(2) THE EXEMPTION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL THAT KILLS OR WOUNDS A**  
 4 **BLACK BEAR IN DEFENSE OF A HONEY BEE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
 5 **SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT:**

6 **(I) CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRIC**  
 7 **FENCE; AND**

8 **(II) INSTALLED AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED THE ELECTRIC**  
 9 **FENCE.**

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

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

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

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
 19 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.