

# HOUSE BILL 1629

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CF SB 1141

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By: **Delegates Beitzel and Carey**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Hunting Licenses – Fox Hunting and Chasing**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “hunt” as it applies to the laws governing  
4 hunting and wildlife in the State to include the act of chasing or in any manner  
5 pursuing fox, whether armed or unarmed; repealing a provision of law excluding the  
6 sport of fox chasing from the definition of “hunt”; repealing the exemption for an  
7 unarmed person participating in an organized fox hunt from the requirement under  
8 certain circumstances to obtain a hunting license; and generally relating to fox  
9 hunting and chasing.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 10–101(k) and 10–301(c)(1)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 10–301(b)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, Hunting in Maryland requires the purchase of an annual hunting  
22 license, with all proceeds from the sale of the licenses credited to the State Wildlife  
23 Management and Protection Fund for the purpose of financing the scientific investigation,  
24 protection, propagation, and management of Maryland wildlife; and

25 WHEREAS, Wildlife management in Maryland is critically dependent on these  
26 special fund license revenues given the absence of comparable General Fund financial

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 support, which financing model is consistent with how most states finance wildlife  
2 management activities; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland's hunting community has been the singular voice for securing  
4 additional money for the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund to support State  
5 wildlife managers in their continuing effort to meet the public's high expectations and high  
6 standards of accountability for the management of Maryland's coveted yet finite wildlife  
7 resources; and

8 WHEREAS, All persons who hunt in Maryland share a moral obligation to pay their  
9 fair share for the privilege, including persons who participate in fox hunts and unarmed  
10 fox chasing; now, therefore,

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

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 10–101.

15 (k) [(1)] “Hunt” means to [pursue]:

16 (1) PURSUE, capture, catch, kill, gig, trap, shoot, or attempt to pursue,  
17 capture, catch, kill, gig, trap, or shoot, or in any manner reduce any bird or mammal to  
18 personal possession[.

19 (2) “Hunt” excludes the sport of fox chasing]; OR

20 (2) CHASE OR PURSUE IN ANY MANNER FOX, WHETHER ARMED OR  
21 UNARMED.

22 10–301.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8                           A.     The parcel of farmland is located in Maryland and an  
9 adjacent state;

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

12                          C.     The adjacent state extends similar privileges to a resident  
13 of Maryland;

14                          (ii)    Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States  
15 while on leave in the State, during the resident's leave period, if, while hunting, the resident  
16 possesses a copy of the resident's official leave order; **AND**

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

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

21                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
22 1, 2017.