

SENATE BILL 953

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7lr3379
CF 7lr1871

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Deer Management Region B – Deer Firearms Season**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish by
4 regulation by a certain date each year a deer firearms season applicable to Deer
5 Management Region B that at a minimum includes certain time periods; providing
6 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to deer firearms season.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Natural Resources

9 Section 10–205(a) and 10–415(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Natural Resources

14 Section 10–405(a)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

20 10–205.

21 (a) Having a due regard for the distribution, abundance, economic value, and
22 breeding habits of wildlife, the Secretary may adopt regulations to enlarge, extend, restrict,
23 or prohibit hunting, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, carrying, transporting, or
24 exporting wildlife.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 10-405.

2 (a) (1) Pursuant to § 10-205 of this title, the Department shall establish by
3 regulation and publish by July 1 each year the open season to hunt forest and upland game
4 birds and mammals.

5 (2) Except as provided under § 10-410 of this subtitle, the Department may
6 not authorize hunting on a Sunday.

7 (3) (i) 1. Subject to subparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the
8 Department shall establish by regulation by July 1 of each year a junior deer hunt to occur
9 on a Saturday and Sunday on the same weekend during a deer hunting season.

10 2. The regulations adopted under this subparagraph may not
11 authorize the junior deer hunt to occur on a Sunday in a county in which deer hunting is
12 not authorized for that Sunday.

13 (ii) A person may participate in the junior deer hunt if the person:

14 1. Is 16 years of age or younger;

15 2. Possesses a valid hunting license or is exempt from
16 hunting license requirements; and

17 3. Is accompanied by a person who:

18 A. Is at least 21 years of age;

19 B. Possesses a valid hunting license or is exempt from
20 hunting license requirements; and

21 C. Is not in possession of a firearm, a bow, or any other
22 hunting device.

23 (iii) A person who participates in the junior deer hunt may use a
24 firearm to hunt deer on the days of the hunt.

25 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH BY REGULATION BY JULY 1**
26 **EACH YEAR A DEER FIREARMS SEASON APPLICABLE TO DEER MANAGEMENT**
27 **REGION B THAT AT A MINIMUM INCLUDES:**

28 **(I) TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS BEGINNING IN EARLY**
29 **NOVEMBER;**

30 **(II) TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS BEGINNING IN LATE NOVEMBER**
31 **AND RUNNING INTO EARLY DECEMBER; AND**

1 **(III) THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JANUARY OF THE FOLLOWING**
2 **YEAR.**

3 10–415.

4 (a) There are the following 3 seasons to hunt deer:

5 (1) Deer bow hunting season;

6 (2) Deer firearms season; and

7 (3) Deer muzzle loader season.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of May 31, 2022,
10 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
11 of no further force and effect.