

HOUSE BILL 863

M2

0lr1360

By: **Delegates Stein, Carr, Charkoudian, Cullison, Hettleman, Kelly, Korman, Lierman, Love, Luedtke, Reznik, Shetty, Solomon, Stewart, Valderrama, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Organized Hunting Contests – Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from sponsoring, conducting, or participating in
4 certain organized contests that have the objective of hunting or killing certain
5 wildlife for prizes or monetary awards; providing for the treatment or humane
6 euthanasia of certain wildlife injured and the disposal of certain wildlife killed
7 during the course of an organized contest conducted in violation of this Act; providing
8 for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to restrictions on organized
9 hunting contests.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Natural Resources

12 Section 10–427

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 **10–427.**

19 **(A) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON**
20 **MAY NOT SPONSOR, CONDUCT, OR PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZED CONTEST THAT**
21 **HAS THE OBJECTIVE OF HUNTING OR KILLING A FUR-BEARING MAMMAL OR AN**
22 **UNPROTECTED MAMMAL FOR PRIZES OR MONETARY REWARDS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A**
2 **LANDOWNER OR THE LANDOWNER'S AGENT OR LESSEE FROM HUNTING OR KILLING**
3 **FUR-BEARING MAMMALS OR UNPROTECTED MAMMALS ON PROPERTY OF THE**
4 **LANDOWNER OR THE LANDOWNER'S AGENT OR LESSEE, PROVIDED THAT THE**
5 **HUNTING OR KILLING IS NOT PART OF AN ORGANIZED CONTEST.**

6 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSPORT ANY WILDLIFE INJURED DURING**
7 **THE COURSE OF AN ORGANIZED CONTEST CONDUCTED IN VIOLATION OF THIS**
8 **SECTION TO A LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR OR VETERINARIAN FOR:**

9 **(1) TREATMENT; OR**

10 **(2) IF THE BEST EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE AND RELEASE THE**
11 **WILDLIFE FAIL, HUMANE EUTHANASIA.**

12 **(C) THE REMAINS OF ANY WILDLIFE KILLED DURING THE COURSE OF AN**
13 **ORGANIZED CONTEST CONDUCTED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BECOME**
14 **THE PROPERTY OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISPOSITION AT THE DISCRETION OF**
15 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2020.