

# HOUSE BILL 1296

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CF 0lr3728

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By: **Delegate Adams**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting – Regulated Shooting Areas – Offshore Stationary Blinds and Blind**  
3 **Sites**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the inclusion of a certain licensed offshore stationary blind  
5 or blind site in a regulated shooting area; authorizing a person to hunt certain  
6 captive raised birds from a certain licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site,  
7 subject to certain conditions; updating certain terminology; making technical and  
8 conforming changes; and generally relating to regulated shooting areas and offshore  
9 stationary blinds and blind sites.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 10–410(a)(2)(iii), 10–412(d), 10–512(d), and 10–906  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 10–616  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 10–410.

24 (a) (2) The following persons may hunt the specified game birds and mammals  
25 on Sundays:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iii) Provided that the provisions of § 10–906(b)(3) of this title are  
2 met, a person:

3 1. Using a regulated shooting [ground] AREA under § 10–906  
4 of this title to hunt the following pen–reared game birds:

5 A. Pheasants;

6 B. Bobwhite quail;

7 C. Chukar partridge;

8 D. Hungarian partridge;

9 E. Tower released flighted mallard ducks; and

10 F. Turkey [on] IN a regulated shooting [ground] AREA that  
11 was permitted to release turkey before September 1, 1992; and

12 2. Having the written permission of the owner of the land or  
13 other person designated by the owner of the land, if the land is owned or leased by a person  
14 other than the person hunting on Sundays;

15 10–412.

16 (d) By rule or regulation, the Department may exempt from this section captive  
17 raised mallard ducks which are released [on] IN a regulated shooting [ground] AREA to be  
18 shot at immediately after release.

19 10–512.

20 (d) (1) Each taxidermist or fur tanner shall keep a ledger on a form provided  
21 by the Department indicating [the]:

22 (I) THE name, address, telephone number, and current hunting,  
23 trapping, fur dealer's, game husbandry, or regulated shooting [ground] AREA license  
24 number of each person[,] from whom any species of wildlife was purchased or received  
25 within or outside the State[, the];

26 (II) THE date of purchase, or receipt, and the quantity of each species  
27 of wildlife purchased or received; and [the]

28 (III) THE date the species was delivered or returned to the customer.

29 (2) The ledger shall indicate the country, state, and county or political

1 subdivision in which the species was taken and the date on which the species was taken  
2 and identify any appropriate official game possession tag number or bill of sale.

3 (3) The tag or bill of sale shall be attached to the wildlife.

4 (4) The licensee also shall include in the ledger the same information with  
5 regard to any wildlife taken from the wild by the licensee.

6 (5) The ledger shall cover every transaction from date of issuance of the  
7 taxidermist or fur tanner's license until date of expiration and shall be kept up-to-date.

8 (6) In addition to any other penalty provided by this subtitle, any person  
9 convicted of failing to maintain or keep up-to-date a ledger required by this subsection or  
10 of making false entries may have the person's license revoked for a period not to exceed 5  
11 years.

12 **10-616.**

13 **A PERSON MAY HUNT CAPTIVE RAISED MALLARD DUCKS FROM A LICENSED**  
14 **OFFSHORE STATIONARY BLIND OR BLIND SITE THAT IS INCLUDED IN A REGULATED**  
15 **SHOOTING AREA, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE APPLICABLE**  
16 **REGULATED SHOOTING AREA PERMIT.**

17 10-906.

18 (a) Any person desiring to establish and operate a regulated shooting [ground]  
19 AREA shall first obtain a permit from the Department.

20 (b) (1) The Department may issue a regulated shooting [ground] AREA permit  
21 on payment of a reasonable fee and after determining that the establishment and operation  
22 of [it] THE REGULATED SHOOTING AREA does not conflict with any reasonable prior  
23 public interest.

24 (2) The Department may not issue a new permit for a regulated shooting  
25 [ground] AREA to an existing permit holder unless the report required under subsection  
26 (c)(2) of this section has been filed.

27 (3) (i) As part of the application for a regulated shooting [ground]  
28 AREA permit, a person may apply to the Department for authorization to allow hunting on  
29 Sunday as provided under § 10-410(a)(2)(iii) of this title.

30 (ii) The Department shall ensure that all requirements and  
31 conditions of applicable law and regulations are met and that issuance of the authorization  
32 will not have an adverse impact on the conservation of native game species or to the public  
33 interest.

1           **(4) A REGULATED SHOOTING AREA MAY INCLUDE AN OFFSHORE**  
2 **STATIONARY BLIND OR BLIND SITE LICENSED TO THE PERSON HOLDING THE**  
3 **REGULATED SHOOTING AREA PERMIT.**

4           (c) (1) The Department, by regulation, shall govern and prescribe the size of  
5 the area, the method of hunting, the open and closed seasons, the release, possession, and  
6 use of propagated wildlife, and any reports the Department deems necessary.

7           (2) **(I)** The Department shall require each person holding a regulated  
8 shooting ground permit to file a report with the Department, on forms provided by the  
9 Department, by April 30 of each year for the most recently concluded hunting season.

10                           **(II)** The report shall include:

11                           **[(i)] 1.** The number and species of captive raised birds that have  
12 been released, killed, or recaptured **[on] IN** the regulated shooting **[ground] AREA** each  
13 day;

14                           **[(ii)] 2.** The number and species of all wild waterfowl that have  
15 been killed **[on] IN** the regulated shooting **[ground] AREA** excluding any of the captive  
16 raised birds listed in **[subparagraph (i)] ITEM 1** of this **[paragraph] SUBPARAGRAPH**;

17                           **[(iii)] 3.** An estimate of how many captive raised birds by species  
18 were released and not captured; and

19                           **[(iv)] 4.** Any outbreaks of avian influenza or other diseases in the  
20 captive raised birds raised, released, or captured **[on] IN** the regulated shooting **[ground]**  
21 **AREA.**

22           (3) **(I)** The permittee shall maintain records of the number and species  
23 of captive raised birds purchased, the date on which they were purchased, and the name  
24 and address from whom they were purchased.

25                           **(II)** These records shall be retained for 12 months from the date of  
26 the transaction.

27           (4) The permittee shall report unusual death or sickness of captive raised  
28 birds immediately to the nearest Maryland Department of Agriculture animal health  
29 laboratory, and transport dead and sick captive raised birds to the nearest Maryland  
30 Department of Agriculture animal health laboratory for diagnostic examination.

31           (5) The permittee shall allow the Department or the Department's  
32 representative to inspect:

33                           (i) Those records required to be maintained under paragraphs (2)  
34 and (3) of this subsection; and

1 (ii) All hatcheries, equipment, and facilities used for rearing and  
2 holding captive raised birds.

3 (6) The permittee shall allow the Department or the Department's  
4 representative to:

5 (i) Collect environmental samples from all hatching, rearing, and  
6 holding facilities;

7 (ii) Culture or biochemical test these samples for the presence of  
8 avian diseases; and

9 (iii) **[Test] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
10 **TEST** a sample of captive raised birds from the permittee's flock.

11 **(7)** The permittee shall provide the Department captive raised birds for  
12 testing at no cost to the Department as the Department deems necessary.

13 (d) (1) **(I) [Any] SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
14 **PARAGRAPH,** A person desiring to hunt on any regulated shooting ground shall first obtain  
15 a special license. **[However, a]**

16 **(II) A** person holding a resident or nonresident hunter's license may  
17 not be required to obtain the license prescribed by this section.

18 (2) **(I)** The license shall **[bear]:**

19 1. **BEAR** the signature of the Secretary; and **[shall be]**

20 2. **BE** countersigned by the issuing agent who at the same  
21 time shall fill out a stub attached to the license with the name and address of the licensee.

22 **(II)** The agent then shall detach the stub and mail it to the Secretary  
23 the first day of each month.

24 **(III)** The agent shall **[retain]:**

25 1. **RETAIN** 50 cents as compensation for issuing each  
26 license**[. The agent shall deliver]; AND**

27 2. **DELIVER** the properly executed license to the applicant in  
28 person or by mail without further cost.

29 **(IV)** The licensee shall insert the licensee's name in ink on the license

1 at the time of purchase.

2 (3) The Department shall charge a reasonable fee for the purchase of a  
3 special license.

4 (4) The license shall expire on June 30 after the date of issuance.

5 (5) The license is not transferable and if used or presented by any person  
6 other than the person to whom it was issued, the license shall be confiscated by the  
7 Secretary, any Natural Resources police officer, or any law enforcement officer.

8 **[(f)] (E)** (1) For the purposes of this subsection a second or subsequent  
9 conviction is a violation that has occurred within 2 years and that arises out of a separate  
10 set of circumstances.

11 (2) In addition to any other penalty provided by the provisions of this title,  
12 if a person who holds a permit to establish and operate a regulated shooting **[ground] AREA**  
13 under this section or any other guest of that person is convicted of violating on the premises  
14 of the regulated shooting **[ground] AREA** a provision of State or federal law or regulation  
15 that establishes daily or seasonal bag limits, prohibits baiting, or prohibits the hunting of  
16 wetland game birds **[on] IN** a regulated shooting **[ground] AREA** by the use or aid of live  
17 birds as decoys, the Secretary shall suspend the permit:

18 (i) For the first conviction, for the following permit year; and

19 (ii) For the second or subsequent conviction, for the following 2  
20 permit years.

21 **[(g)] (F)** If a regulated shooting **[ground] AREA** permit is suspended, a new  
22 permit may not be issued for that regulated shooting **[ground] AREA**, regardless of who  
23 applies, until the period of suspension ends.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
25 1, 2020.