

## Chapter 408

**(House Bill 592)**

AN ACT concerning

**Deer Management Permit – Hunting on State Land Leased by Permit Holder – Authorization**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow an individual who hunts deer under a Deer Management Permit to use a certain shotgun or breech loading center fired rifle to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, in a certain manner on State land leased by a permit holder for the purpose of cultivating crops; and generally relating to hunting under a Deer Management Permit.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Natural Resources  
 Section 10–415(d)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

10–415.

(d) (1) In this subsection, “Deer Management Permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the holder or an agent of the holder to hunt deer outside of deer hunting season for the purpose of preventing damage to crops.

(2) **[In] ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IN** Baltimore County, Charles County, Calvert County, St. Mary’s County, and Harford County, **THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE** an individual who hunts deer under a Deer Management Permit ~~may~~ **TO**:

(i) **Use] USE** a shotgun or breech loading center fired rifle approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit~~];~~ and

(ii) **On State land in** Baltimore County, Charles County, Calvert County, St. Mary’s County, or Harford County leased by the permit holder for the purpose of cultivating crops, hunt deer on the leased land in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit~~].~~

(3) **ON STATE LAND LEASED BY A PERMIT HOLDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATING CROPS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HUNTS DEER UNDER A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT ~~MAY~~ TO USE A SHOTGUN OR BREECH LOADING CENTER FIRED RIFLE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HUNT DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING ALL DEER HUNTING SEASONS, IN THE LOCATIONS AND UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT.**

(4) To protect public safety and welfare, the Department may restrict the lands on which an individual may hunt deer under a Deer Management Permit.

~~[(4)]~~ (5) (i) This paragraph applies only in Frederick County.

(ii) Subject to the conditions set forth in a Deer Management Permit, a permittee may use a rifle approved by the Department to harvest deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons.

(iii) In Frederick County Zone 1, as defined in COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(g), an agent of a permittee may use a rifle to harvest deer throughout the year.

(iv) 1. This subparagraph applies only in Frederick County Zone 2, as defined in COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(h).

2. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 3 of this subparagraph, an agent of a permittee may use a rifle to harvest deer in a period beginning October 1 and ending March 31.

3. In a deer firearms season, an agent of a permittee may harvest deer only by using the weapon approved for that season.

(v) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this paragraph.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.**