By: Delegates Cox and McComas  
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILLENTITLED

1 ANACT concerning

2 Natural Resources – Black Bear Hunting – Permit Requirements

3 FOR the purpose of establishing requirements for the issuance of a black bear hunting
4 permit; and generally relating to permits for hunting black bears.

5 BY adding to
6 Article – Natural Resources
7 Section 10–428
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

10–428.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “TARGETED HARVEST RATE” MEANS THE DIFFERENCE
15 BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT’S GOAL FOR THE ANNUAL MORTALITY RATE AND THE
16 KNOWN MORTALITY RATE FOR BLACK BEARS.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, FREDERICK COUNTY,
18 GARRETT COUNTY, AND WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT UNDER THIS SECTION TO
20 A PERSON WHO IS NOT A RESIDENT OF THE STATE.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(D) (1) Except as provided under subsection (E) of this section, the number of black bear hunting permits issued each year shall be in an amount estimated to meet the targeted harvest rate for that year.

(2) The Department shall issue permits under this subsection using an annual randomized lottery system in which all individuals seeking a permit are given the same priority.

(3) A person who harvests a black bear under a permit issued under this subsection may not be selected for a black bear permit in the following year.

(E) In addition to the permits issued under subsection (D) of this section, the Department shall issue a permit to a landowner to hunt black bears on the landowner’s property.

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