

Chapter 553

(House Bill 857)

AN ACT concerning

**Natural Resources – Pursuing Wounded Deer After Legal Hunting Hours and
Using a Light – Authorization**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a person who is authorized by the Department of Natural Resources to hunt deer and who wounds a deer during legal hunting hours to pursue and kill the deer after legal hunting hours subject to certain restrictions and with the use of a light; and generally relating to deer hunting.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10–428

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

10–428.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME RESTRICTIONS UNDER § 10–410(A) AND (B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON WHO IS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HUNT DEER AND WHO WOUNDS A DEER DURING LEGAL HUNTING HOURS MAY PURSUE AND KILL THE DEER AFTER LEGAL HUNTING HOURS.

(B) (1) ~~A~~ SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON WHO PURSUES A WOUNDED DEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL USE ONLY THE MEANS AUTHORIZED FOR THE APPLICABLE HUNTING SEASON OR PERMIT TO KILL THE DEER.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER §§ 10–410(E) AND 10–416(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON WHO PURSUES A WOUNDED DEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY USE A LIGHT OR THROW OR CAST THE RAYS OF A SPOTLIGHT, A HEADLIGHT, AN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT, A BATTERY, OR ANY OTHER DEVICE WHILE PURSUING THE WOUNDED DEER.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.