

HOUSE BILL 1024

M4, M2

5lr3449
CF SB 958

By: **Delegates Hutchinson, Adams, Arentz, Beauchamp, Jacobs, and Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Agriculture to take extraordinary
4 measures to control deer populations and prevent future crop loss under certain
5 circumstances; and generally relating to deer and crop damage.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Agriculture

8 Section 2–108

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Agriculture**

14 **2–108.**

15 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE” MEANS THE LOSS OF 50%**
16 **OR MORE OF CROPS FROM A SINGLE FIELD.**

17 **(B) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT DEER HAVE CAUSED**
18 **CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE TO A FIELD, THE DEPARTMENT MAY TAKE**
19 **EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO CONTROL THE LOCAL DEER POPULATION AND**
20 **PREVENT FUTURE CROP LOSS.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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