

HOUSE BILL 1063

M2

6lr2234
CF SB 643

By: **Delegates Boyce, Korman, Allen, Bouchat, Hornberger, T. Morgan, Rose, Ruth, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 10, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Hunting – Management**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the Department of Natural Resources may authorize the
4 reduction of the deer population on certain property with deer damage using certain
5 methods; altering the time restrictions for Sunday deer hunting in certain counties
6 during deer firearms season; repealing certain time restrictions that apply to the
7 hunting of game birds and mammals on certain Sundays on private property in
8 Wicomico County; authorizing the Department to allow a person to hunt deer on each
9 Sunday of the deer bow hunting season in Baltimore City; ~~repealing the prohibition~~
10 ~~against hunting migratory game birds on Sundays and authorizing the Department~~
11 ~~to allow Sunday hunting for migratory game birds, subject to a certain requirement;~~
12 repealing certain provisions of law governing Sunday hunting on a
13 county-by-county basis and authorizing the Department to adopt regulations
14 allowing Sunday hunting during game bird and game mammal seasons, subject to a
15 certain standard; and generally relating to hunting management.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article – Natural Resources

18 Section 10-206 ~~and 10-410(a)~~, 10-410(a), and 10-906(b)(3)(i)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – Natural Resources

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 10–410(a) and 10–906(b)(3)(i)
 2 Annotated Code of Maryland
 3 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
 4 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

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

7 **Article – Natural Resources**

8 10–206.

9 **(A)** The Department may reduce the wildlife population in any county, election
 10 district, or other identifiable area of the State after a thorough investigation reveals that
 11 protected wildlife is seriously injurious to agricultural or other interests in the affected
 12 area. The method of reducing the wildlife population is at the Department’s discretion,
 13 except that trapping is preferred whenever feasible. The Department shall dispose of
 14 wildlife taken pursuant to the provisions of this section as the Department deems
 15 advisable.

16 **(B) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “DEER DAMAGE” INCLUDES:**

17 **(I) WIDESPREAD DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEER, INCLUDING THE**
 18 **ELIMINATION OF FOREST UNDERSTORY, TREE REGENERATION, AND NATIVE**
 19 **PLANTS; AND**

20 **(II) THE DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS ~~OR~~**
 21 **~~LANDSCAPING, INCLUDING ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING,~~ CAUSED BY DEER.**

22 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE THE REDUCTION OF THE**
 23 **DEER POPULATION ON ANY SINGLE, CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OF AT LEAST 10 ACRES**
 24 **WHERE THE DEPARTMENT HAS DOCUMENTED DEER DAMAGE.**

25 **(3) (I) THE METHOD OF REDUCING THE DEER POPULATION:**

26 **1. IS AT THE DEPARTMENT’S DISCRETION; AND**

27 **2. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
 28 **PARAGRAPH, MAY INCLUDE THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO A PROPERTY OWNER, OR**
 29 **THE PROPERTY OWNER’S EMPLOYEE, LESSEE, OR AGENT, TO SHOOT DEER ON THE**
 30 **PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.**

31 **(II) A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)2 OF THIS**
 32 **PARAGRAPH SHALL PROHIBIT DEER HUNTING ON SUNDAYS DURING DEER**
 33 **FIREARMS SEASON WITHIN ~~25~~ 150 YARDS OF A DEPARTMENT TRAIL DESIGNATED**

1 FOR BICYCLING, HIKING, EQUESTRIAN USE, OR OTHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE
2 RECREATIONAL USE.

3 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

4 (I) MAP AREAS OF THE STATE TO WHICH A PERMIT MAY APPLY
5 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION; AND

6 (II) MAKE THE MAPS READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

7 10-410.

8 (a) (1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of
9 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

- 10 1. Allegany County;
- 11 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert
12 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 13 3. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Caroline
14 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 15 4. Cecil County;
- 16 5. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Charles
17 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 18 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester
19 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 20 7. Garrett County;
- 21 8. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Queen
22 Anne's County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 23 9. St. Mary's County;
- 24 10. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset
25 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;
- 26 11. Washington County;
- 27 12. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Worcester
28 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; and

1 (i) Carroll County; and

2 (ii) Frederick County.

3 (3) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Department
4 may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from 30
5 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. in:

6 1. Kent County;

7 2. Montgomery County; and

8 3. Talbot County.

9 (ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply:

10 1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under
11 this subtitle;

12 2. **A.** On one Sunday designated by the Department
13 during the deer firearms season; **AND**

14 **B. ~~ON IN KENT COUNTY AND TALBOT COUNTY, ON THE~~**
15 **REMAINING SUNDAYS OF THE DEER FIREARMS SEASON, FOR WHICH THE TIME**
16 **RESTRICTIONS SHALL BE FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30 A.M. AND**
17 **FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL SUNSET;**

18 3. In Kent County, on each Sunday during the deer bow
19 hunting season and the deer muzzle loader season;

20 4. In Montgomery County, on one Sunday designated by the
21 Department during the deer bow hunting season; and

22 5. In Talbot County, on the last three Sundays in October
23 and the first two Sundays in November during the bow hunting season.

24 (4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer
25 firearms season:

26 (i) On each Sunday in Harford County; and

27 (ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County.

28 (5) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer bow
29 hunting season on:

1 (i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in
2 November in Harford County; and

3 (ii) The first Sunday in November in Anne Arundel County.

4 (6) **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER ON**
5 **EACH SUNDAY OF THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON IN BALTIMORE CITY.**

6 **(7)** The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of
7 the spring turkey hunting season in:

8 (i) Carroll County;

9 (ii) Kent County; and

10 (iii) Talbot County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

11 ~~(7)~~ **(8)** Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the
12 Department may allow a person with [a]:

13 **(I) A deer management permit ISSUED UNDER § 10-206(A) OF**
14 **THIS TITLE to shoot deer on any Sunday throughout the year in accordance with the terms**
15 **of the permit; AND**

16 **(II) A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT ISSUED UNDER § 10-206(B) OF**
17 **THIS TITLE TO SHOOT DEER ON ANY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN**
18 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT.**

19 ~~(8)~~ **(9)** The Department may allow a person using a State certified
20 raptor to hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the
21 game birds or mammals.

22 ~~(9)~~ **(10)** The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in
23 an organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

24 ~~(10)~~ **(11)** The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared game
25 birds or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated shooting
26 ground in accordance with § 10-906 of this title.

27 ~~(11)~~ **(12)** The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or
28 younger to hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department
29 in accordance with this subtitle.

1 ~~(12)~~ **(13)** Except as provided in paragraphs ~~(8)~~ **(9)** through ~~(10)~~ **(11)** of this
 2 subsection and subject to paragraph ~~(7)~~ **(8)** of this subsection, a person may not hunt on
 3 Sunday in:

- 4 (i) Baltimore City;
- 5 (ii) Baltimore County;
- 6 (iii) Howard County; or
- 7 (iv) Prince George's County.

8 ~~(13)~~ **(14)** ~~(I)~~ [A person may not] ~~SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II)~~
 9 ~~OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO~~ hunt migratory
 10 game birds on Sunday.

11 ~~(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOW THE FOLLOWING~~
 12 ~~PERSONS TO HUNT MIGRATORY CANADA GEESE (ATLANTIC POPULATION) ON~~
 13 ~~SUNDAYS DURING THE OPEN SEASON:~~

- 14 ~~1. JUNIOR HUNTERS;~~
- 15 ~~2. SENIOR HUNTERS;~~
- 16 ~~3. APPRENTICE HUNTERS; AND~~
- 17 ~~4. FULL TIME STUDENTS WHO HOLD A HUNTING~~
 18 ~~LICENSE.~~

19 ~~(14)~~ **(15)** A person may not hunt on public land within the State park
 20 system on Sunday.

21 ~~(15)~~ **(16)** (i) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public
 22 land designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

- 23 1. Allegany County;
- 24 2. Cecil County;
- 25 3. Garrett County;
- 26 4. St. Mary's County;
- 27 5. Washington County;

Article – Natural Resources

1
2 10–410.

3 (a) [(1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of
4 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

5 1. Allegany County;

6 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert
7 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

8 3. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Caroline
9 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

10 4. Cecil County;

11 5. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Charles
12 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

13 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester
14 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

15 7. Garrett County;

16 8. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Queen
17 Anne's County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

18 9. St. Mary's County;

19 10. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset
20 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

21 11. Washington County;

22 12. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Worcester
23 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; and

24 13. ~~Subject to subparagraph (v) of this paragraph, Wicomico~~
25 ~~County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.~~

26 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 and 12 of this
27 paragraph do not apply:

28 1. On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and

1 2. Montgomery County; and

2 3. Talbot County.

3 (ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply:

4 1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under
5 this subtitle;

6 2. A. On one Sunday designated by the Department
7 during the deer firearms season; and

8 B. ~~On~~ In Kent County and Talbot County, on the remaining
9 Sundays of the deer firearms season, for which the time restrictions shall be from 30
10 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. until sunset;

11 3. In Kent County, on each Sunday during the deer bow
12 hunting season and the deer muzzle loader season;

13 4. In Montgomery County, on one Sunday designated by the
14 Department during the deer bow hunting season; and

15 5. In Talbot County, on the last three Sundays in October
16 and the first two Sundays in November during the bow hunting season.

17 (4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer
18 firearms season:

19 (i) On each Sunday in Harford County; and

20 (ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County.

21 (5) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer bow
22 hunting season on:

23 (i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in
24 November in Harford County; and

25 (ii) The first Sunday in November in Anne Arundel County.

26 (6) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the
27 deer bow hunting season in Baltimore City.

28 (7) The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of
29 the spring turkey hunting season in:

30 (i) Carroll County;

1 (ii) Kent County; and

2 (iii) Talbot County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.]

3 **(1) (I) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE**
 4 **DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ALLOWING PERSONS TO HUNT ON**
 5 **SUNDAYS DURING THE GAME BIRD AND GAME MAMMAL SEASONS.**

6 **(II) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION**
 7 **SHALL AT A MINIMUM ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING ON THE HOURS AND DAYS**
 8 **AUTHORIZED FOR SUNDAY HUNTING BY SPECIES, HUNTING SEASON, AND COUNTY**
 9 **ON JUNE 30, 2027.**

10 ~~[(7)] [(8)]~~ **(2)** Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the
 11 Department may allow a person with:

12 (i) A deer management permit issued under § 10–206(a) of this title
 13 to shoot deer on any Sunday throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the
 14 permit; and

15 (ii) A deer damage permit issued under § 10–206(b) of this title to
 16 shoot deer on any Sunday throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the permit.

17 ~~[(8)] [(9)]~~ **(3)** The Department may allow a person using a State
 18 certified raptor to hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for
 19 the game birds or mammals.

20 ~~[(9)] [(10)]~~ **(4)** The Department may allow an unarmed person
 21 participating in an organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

22 ~~[(10)] [(11)]~~ **(5)** The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared
 23 game birds or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated
 24 shooting ground in accordance with § 10–906 of this title.

25 ~~[(11)] [(12)]~~ **(6)** The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old
 26 or younger to hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the
 27 Department in accordance with this subtitle.

28 ~~[(12)] [(13)]~~ **(7)** Except as provided in paragraphs ~~[(8)] [(9)]~~ **(3)** through
 29 ~~[(10)] [(11)]~~ **(5)** of this subsection and subject to paragraph ~~[(7)] [(8)]~~ **(2)** of this subsection,
 30 a person may not hunt on Sunday in:

31 (i) Baltimore City;

32 (ii) Baltimore County;

1 (iii) Howard County; or

2 (iv) Prince George's County.

3 ~~[(13)] [(14)] (8)~~ (i) ~~Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the~~
4 ~~Department may allow a person to~~ A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

5 (ii) ~~The Department shall allow the following persons to hunt~~
6 ~~migratory Canada geese (Atlantic population) on Sundays during the open season:~~

7 ~~1. Junior hunters;~~

8 ~~2. Senior hunters;~~

9 ~~3. Apprentice hunters; and~~

10 ~~4. Full-time students who hold a hunting license.~~

11 ~~[(14)] [(15)] (9)~~ A person may not hunt on public land within the State
12 park system on Sunday.

13 ~~[(15)] (16)~~ (i) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public
14 land designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

15 1. Allegany County;

16 2. Cecil County;

17 3. Garrett County;

18 4. St. Mary's County;

19 5. Washington County;

20 6. Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey
21 hunting season;

22 7. Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in
23 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive;

24 8. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset
25 County, on public land leased to a hunt club from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30
26 a.m.;

27 9. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Worcester
28 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; and

1 10. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Wicomico
2 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

3 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)8 and 9 of this
4 paragraph do not apply:

5 1. On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and

6 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
7 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

8 (iii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 of this paragraph
9 do not apply:

10 1. A. On the first Sunday of the deer firearms season; and

11 B. On the remaining Sundays of the deer firearms season, for
12 which the time restrictions shall be from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. and
13 from 3:00 p.m. until sunset; and

14 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
15 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.]

16 10-906.

17 (b) (3) (i) As part of the application for a regulated shooting ground permit,
18 a person may apply to the Department for authorization to allow hunting on Sunday as
19 provided under [§ 10-410(a)(11)] § 10-410(A)(5) of this title.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
21 2029, the Department of Natural Resources shall:

22 (1) report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
23 State Government Article, on the effectiveness of this Act on deer management and
24 balancing stakeholder interests; and

25 (2) include in the report input from all relevant stakeholders.

26 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed
27 to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to allow Sunday hunting in Baltimore
28 County, Howard County, or Prince George's County:

29 (1) (i) except as provided in Section 10-410(a)(9) through (11) of the
30 Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; and

1 (ii) subject to Section 10–410(a)(8) of the Natural Resources Article,
2 as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; or

3 (2) (i) except as provided in Section 10–410(a)(3) through (5) of the
4 Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act; and

5 (ii) subject to Section 10–410(a)(2) of the Natural Resources Article,
6 as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
8 effect July 1, 2027. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June
9 30, 2030, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
10 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

11 SECTION ~~5~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
12 Section ~~4~~ 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.