



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 821 – Natural Resources – Hunting Licenses – New Residents

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully provides the following information on House Bill (HB) 821. This bill will allow certain individuals the ability to receive a hunting license in Maryland if they present a valid hunting license from another state.

Under current law, any person who wishes to receive a Maryland hunting license must make an application with the department either by paper form, electronically in the COMPASS licensing system, in person at a Sport License Agent or by telephone. A requirement of the application is providing evidence of a hunter safety course or ability to certify they hunted prior to 1977.

By requiring only a valid hunting license from a prior year, HB 821 effectively waives the requirement to present proof of completing a hunter education in any of the 49 other states with which Maryland has reciprocity. Moreover, department licensing staff would require specialized training in order to identify hunting licenses from other states, as not all types of hunting licenses require hunter safety education as a prerequisite. Sport License Agents would likely be unable to accept proof of a valid hunting license from another state because of this administrative hurdle.

Though all states make it fairly easy to retrieve hunter safety information from them directly, the department prides itself in working with individuals who have recently moved to Maryland and cannot find their original hunter safety education information. Licensing staff are able to expedite card replacement or hunter safety information retrieval from their colleagues in other states with only a licensee name, address, date of birth, and location of where the training took place.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit this information on HB 821 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service