

HB682_Brooks_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee

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The Maryland House of Delegates

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB682
BALTIMORE COUNTY – HUNTING –NONGAME BIRD AND MAMMALS

Environment and Transportation Committee
February 18, 2022

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on HB682, Baltimore County-Hunting-Nongame Bird and Mammals. HB682 repeals a prohibition in Baltimore County against the hunting or attempting to hunt nongame birds and mammals without first obtaining a hunting license. This bill would only apply to non-protected nongame birds and mammals. As defined by Maryland Natural Resources § 10-101, nongame birds and mammals means “every wild mammal and bird not classified as game birds and mammals or any part, egg, offspring, or dead body of any of them”.

Farmers can experience damage to crops, equipment, and destruction of their underground irrigation systems. Wildlife damage and nuisance situations are expected to continue and increase. Only in Baltimore County, are farmers required to obtain a license first before protecting their farms from these creatures. By reducing nongame birds and mammals from these properties, it will provide economic relief to the farmers of Baltimore County.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks

Support of HB 682 - Baltimore County - Hunting-Non

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 18, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 682 - Baltimore County - Hunting – Nongame Bird and Mammals

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 682, legislation that repeals a requirement that you must first purchase a hunting license before you can hunt or trap groundhogs in Baltimore County. Farmers continue to have troubles with groundhogs in their fields and barns. If passed, this bill would allow farmers in Baltimore County to follow the same requirements as farmers in every other county in the state.

Wildlife like groundhogs continue to cause crop and farm equipment damage on Maryland farms around the state. Only in Baltimore County does a farmer and their hired workers need a hunting license to be able to remove problem groundhogs around their farm. This bill cleans up an outdated law and conforms Baltimore County's law with all the other counties in the state that don't require a hunting license to remove groundhogs.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 682 AND ENCOURAGES THE DELEGATION TO MOVE FAVORABLY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

E&T Committee HB682 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Jo-Ann Chason

Position: FAV

February 16, 2022

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Support of HB 682 - Baltimore County - Hunting - Nongame Bird and Mammals

From: Baltimore County Farm Bureau

Only in Baltimore County is it required for a farmer to purchase a hunting license and wear orange to hunt and trap groundhogs. I submit this written testimony in support of HB 682 on behalf of the over 1,100 members of Baltimore County Farm Bureau. Throughout the state of Maryland groundhogs, the holes they create and the mounds of soil they excavate cause injury to livestock, damage to crops, farm equipment and structures. This bill, if passed, will correct the superfluous requirements of only those who farm in Baltimore County.

I encourage your favorable support. We are simply asking for the same rights and privileges as every other farmer in the State of Maryland.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU & BALTIMORE COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUPPORT HB 682 AND ENCOURAGES THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE FAVORABLY.

Jo-Ann Chason

Baltimore County Farm Bureau Board

jo.ann.chason@gmail.com

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