



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Bill Number: HB 1067

Short Title: Natural Resources – Wildlife Management – Nighttime Hunting

Department’s Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department’s Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on HB 1067.

Deer Cooperator Permits (DCPs) are issued by DNR. DCPs can be issued for year-round operations if the purpose is to address a human safety concern such as keeping runways safe at airports. DNR also offers DCPs for agricultural purposes, which are limited to use in February and March.

DCP permit holders utilize the services of deer cooperators. Deer cooperators are businesses that provide deer control assistance where deer hunting alone is not a viable option. They are licensed by DNR to use non-lethal and/or lethal deer management techniques to help resolve deer problems. Deer cooperators must follow an operational plan approved by DNR. Most deer harvested under authority of DCPs are removed outside of the hunting season. None of those deer count against the hunting season bag limit. Approximately 2,000 deer are taken under the authority of DCPs on 40 permits issued every year.

DCPs should not be confused with Deer Management Permits (DMPs), also referred to as “crop damage permits,” which are limited to day-time shooting and available year-round. Nearly 10,000 deer are taken on approximately 1,800 “Crop Damage Permits/DMPs” annually. Both permit types (DCP and DMP) provide essential opportunities for permit holders to address human safety issues and crop damage.

For any additional information, please contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.