

JACK BAILEY
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Budget & Taxation Committee



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Senate Bill 91 – Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 91 – Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations. This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to issue an apprentice hunting license to a person younger than age 17 who has previously been issued an apprentice hunting license.

The apprentice hunting license is a key part of our State's efforts to ensure that Maryland's youth have the ability to learn about hunting, which is a significant part of our culture, particularly in our more rural areas. This license gives a person the ability to hunt if they are accompanied and directly supervised by a person who is at least age 18 and has a valid resident hunting license and the person accompanying the apprentice hunter maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and is in a position to immediately assume control of the apprentice hunter's firearm.

Under current law, this license cannot be renewed or re-applied for; this bill would change this for individuals under 17 only. Senate Bill 91 is narrowly targeted to provide Maryland youth with the ability to renew or reapply for this license, giving them more opportunities to learn from experienced hunters, safely passing this great tradition on to the next generation.

It is important to note that, as part of this legislation, an applicant for a second or subsequent apprentice hunting license is required to repeat the required DNR-approved online course of instruction in competency in firearms and hunter safety. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 91. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey