



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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February 16, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 481 - First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs - Authorization**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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The Department's Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) is primarily responsible for a variety of different aspects of DNR's role in wildlife management. This includes monitoring wildlife populations, establishing hunting seasons, and protecting endangered species to name a few.

The proposed legislation is a specific exemption to the statute related to the sale, barter, or exchange of legally acquired deer.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Current law prohibits the sale, barter or exchange of whole deer. Exceptions are included for mounted specimens. The existing contest referenced by the bill requires this legislation to avoid further ambiguity as to the legal status of the contest. The bill creates a limited exception for the particular contest occurring in four counties.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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This bill authorizes a person to receive a raffle ticket for each antlerless deer hunted by the person during a raffle program that (1) is held in January; (2) has as its objective the hunting of antlerless deer; and (3) was previously held at least once from January 1, 2020, through January 30, 2024, inclusive.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)