

JACK BAILEY
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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 508 – Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 508. This legislation would increase the nonresident sika deer stamp fee from \$25 to \$100.

Last year, the General Assembly passed legislation which adjusted Maryland's hunting license and stamp fees for the first time in decades. This legislation also created a new stamp for hunting sika deer. In addition to the new revenue generated by these stamps, this also gave us data on how many people are hunting sika deer in our State for the first time.

I continue to hear from Maryland residents who want to hunt sika deer that it is difficult to do so due to the level of demand from out-of-state hunters. This is true, not only in terms of finding land for hunting, but also other elements of our infrastructure, such as parking at public lands which are open for hunting. According to data from the Department of Natural Resources, of the 12,737 individuals who have purchased a sika deer stamp by the end of December, 3,030 of them or 24% were nonresidents.

Senate Bill 508 raises the sika deer stamp fee for nonresidents in order to provide Maryland hunters with more preferential treatment in hunting this Maryland resource. It will also provide additional revenue to DNR, which will be subject to a 3-to-1 federal match in accordance with the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and ultimately be reinvested in our State's natural resources.

It is important to note that this legislation will have no effect on Maryland hunters. As outlined in the bill, residents will continue to pay the \$10 stamp fee that was established in law last year.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 508. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey