A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Howard County – Deer Hunting

Ho. Co. 16–18

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on certain property during a certain time period on Sundays in Howard County, subject to certain provisions of law; establishing for archery hunters in Howard County a safety zone of a certain size within which archery hunting may not take place except under certain circumstances; establishing that archery hunters in the county may hunt in certain areas only under certain circumstances; and generally relating to deer hunting in Howard County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–410(a)(1), (10), and (11)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–410(a)(12)
Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–410(g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Deer/vehicle collisions pose a significant threat to personal property and safety and are a particularly painful and inhumane way for deer to die; and

WHEREAS, In 2016 1,381 deer were killed by vehicles in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is considered a high-risk state for deer/vehicle collisions, which negatively impacts motor vehicle insurance rates; and

WHEREAS, Deer/vehicle collisions result in significant costs to State and local jurisdictions in the form of accident response and the disposal and refrigeration of deer carcasses; and

WHEREAS, The overpopulation of deer poses a danger to people by contributing to the spread of Lyme disease; and

WHEREAS, The overpopulation of deer results in millions of dollars in crop damage statewide; and

WHEREAS, Sunday deer hunting and managed deer hunts assist the Department of Natural Resources in controlling the deer population; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

10–410.
(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may not hunt any game bird or mammal on Sundays.

(10) (i) This paragraph applies only in Kent County.

(ii) Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle and subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property throughout all deer hunting seasons.

(iii) 1. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, during firearms season, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday only from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

2. The time restrictions under this subparagraph do not apply:

A. To a participant in the junior deer hunt under § 10–405(a) of this subtitle; and

B. On private land only on one Sunday designated by the Department during the firearms season.

(11) (i) This paragraph applies only in Montgomery County.

(ii) Subject to § 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday throughout the deer hunting season on private property, subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle.

(iii) 1. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday under this paragraph only from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

2. The time restrictions under this subparagraph do not apply:

A. To a participant in the junior deer hunt under § 10–405(a) of this subtitle;
B. On private land only on one Sunday designated by the Department during deer bow hunting season; and

C. On private land only on one Sunday designated by the Department during the firearms season.

**12** (1) **THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN HOWARD COUNTY.**

(II) Subject to § 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday throughout the deer hunting season on private property, subject to § 10–411 of this subtitle.

(III) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday under this paragraph only from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the “safety zone”, of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

(2) A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school during school hours or at a time when a school–approved activity is taking place.

(i) For archery hunters in Calvert County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County, or St. Mary’s County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(ii) For archery hunters in Anne Arundel County or Howard County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.
During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any wild bird or mammal within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

(5) (I) In Harford County or Montgomery County, an archery hunter shall use a tree stand when hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(II) IN HOWARD COUNTY, AN ARCHERY HUNTER MAY HUNT ANY WILD BIRD OR MAMMAL WITHIN 100 TO 150 YARDS OF A DWELLING HOUSE, RESIDENCE, CHURCH, OR ANY OTHER BUILDING OR CAMP OCCUPIED BY HUMAN BEINGS UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY ON LAND THAT IS USED AS PART OF A MANAGED HUNT CONDUCTED IN COORDINATION WITH THE HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.