

# SENATE BILL 944

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By: **Senators Dyson, Colburn, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 26, 2009

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties – Deer Hunting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a  
4 program in certain counties to train ~~sharpshooters~~ rifle shooters to hunt deer  
5 during daylight hours for the purpose of controlling the deer population;  
6 requiring the Department to give certain applicants priority to participate in  
7 the program; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations;  
8 authorizing a person to hunt deer with a certain shotgun in certain counties  
9 during certain months; authorizing a person who holds a Deer Damage Permit  
10 in certain counties to hunt with a certain shotgun during deer season in certain  
11 locations, and to hunt deer on certain State lands under certain conditions;  
12 prohibiting the Department from requiring a person who holds a Deer Damage  
13 Permit in certain counties to renew the permit more frequently than at a  
14 certain interval; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the  
15 regulation by the Department of Natural Resources of deer hunting in Calvert,  
16 Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Natural Resources

19 Section 10–408.2 and 10–415(d)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Natural Resources

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 10-415(a)  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

6 **Article - Natural Resources**

7 **10-408.2.**

8 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM IN CALVERT,  
9 CHARLES, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES TO TRAIN ~~SHARPSHOOTERS FOR THE~~  
10 ~~PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING~~ RIFLE SHOOTERS TO HUNT DEER DURING  
11 DAYLIGHT HOURS TO CONTROL THE DEER POPULATION IN CALVERT, CHARLES,  
12 AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES.

13 (B) WHEN SELECTING APPLICANTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE  
14 PROGRAM UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
15 GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICANTS WHO HOLD A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT, AS  
16 DEFINED IN § 10-415(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT  
18 THIS SECTION.

19 10-415.

20 (a) (1) There are the following 3 seasons to hunt deer:

21 [(1)] (I) Deer bow hunting season;

22 [(2)] (II) Deer firearms season; and

23 [(3)] (III) Deer muzzle loader season.

24 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A  
25 PERSON MAY HUNT DEER WITH A SHOTGUN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
26 FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH IN CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY'S  
27 COUNTIES.

28 (D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "DEER DAMAGE PERMIT" MEANS A  
29 PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO AN AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNER OR  
30 LESSEE IN THE STATE EXPERIENCING SEVERE CROP DAMAGE FROM DEER THAT  
31 ALLOWS THE LANDOWNER OR LESSEE TO HUNT DEER OUTSIDE OF DEER  
32 HUNTING SEASON ACCORDING TO CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT.

1                   **(2) A PERSON WHO HOLDS A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT IN CALVERT**  
2 **COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, OR ST. MARY’S COUNTY MAY:**

3                   **(I) USE A SHOTGUN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO**  
4 **HUNT DEER THROUGHOUT DEER SEASON IN THE LOCATIONS AND UNDER THE**  
5 **CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT; AND**

6                   **(II) HUNT DEER ON STATE AGRICULTURAL CROP LAND**  
7 **LOCATED IN CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES TO THE SAME**  
8 **EXTENT AS THE PERSON IS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE DEER DAMAGE PERMIT TO**  
9 **HUNT ON PRIVATE LAND IN CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES.**

10                   **(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE A PERSON WHO HOLDS**  
11 **A DEER DAMAGE PERMIT IN CALVERT COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, OR**  
12 **ST. MARY’S COUNTY TO APPLY FOR RENEWAL MORE THAN ONCE EVERY 3**  
13 **YEARS.**

14                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2009.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_ Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_ President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_ Speaker of the House of Delegates.