

HOUSE BILL 857

M2

5lr2351
CF SB 100

By: **Delegates Hornberger, Arentz, Arian, Beauchamp, Chisholm, Grammer, Griffith, Hutchinson, Jacobs, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Otto, Pippy, Schmidt, Szeliga, ~~and Valentine~~ Valentine, Allen, Behler, Boyce, J. Long, Stewart, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Pursuing Wounded Deer After Legal Hunting Hours and**
3 **Using a Light – Authorization**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person who is authorized by the Department of Natural
5 Resources to hunt deer and who wounds a deer during legal hunting hours to pursue
6 and kill the deer after legal hunting hours subject to certain restrictions and with
7 the use of a light; and generally relating to deer hunting.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 10–428

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 **10–428.**

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.



(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME RESTRICTIONS UNDER § 10-410(A) AND (B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON WHO IS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HUNT DEER AND WHO WOUNDS A DEER DURING LEGAL HUNTING HOURS MAY PURSUE AND KILL THE DEER AFTER LEGAL HUNTING HOURS.

(B) (1) ~~A~~ SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON WHO PURSUES A WOUNDED DEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL USE ONLY THE MEANS AUTHORIZED FOR THE APPLICABLE HUNTING SEASON OR PERMIT TO KILL THE DEER.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER §§ 10-410(E) AND 10-416(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON WHO PURSUES A WOUNDED DEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY USE A LIGHT OR THROW OR CAST THE RAYS OF A SPOTLIGHT, A HEADLIGHT, AN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT, A BATTERY, OR ANY OTHER DEVICE WHILE PURSUING THE WOUNDED DEER.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.