Bill Synopses

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HOUSE GUN BILLS

HB 6  Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Application Report
Would require the MSP to report semi-annually on the dispositions of carry permit application under the general categories of new application, renewals, and requests for modifications. Each category to include number approved, denied, reason for denial of each permit denied, number of applications not processed within 30 days and an accounting of application fees collected. There is no requirement in the existing statute that requires permit applications to be processed within 30 days. It is unclear what purpose this bill is intended to serve. No Position

Reporting requirement for Baltimore City School Police vehicles and firearms. This bill is of no concern to gun owners and can be ignored. No Position

HB 53  Sales and Use Tax – Exemption – Firearm Safety Devices
Would make purchases of safes, locks, lock boxes and similar firearms safety devices exempt from Maryland sales and use taxes. SUPPORT

HB 59  Public Safety – Assault Weapons – Replacements
Would allow owners of legally owned but now banned “assault weapons” which are broken, lost or stolen to replace the firearm provided new firearms is registered with the MSP. SUPPORT

HB 159  Weapon-Free Higher Education Zones
Adds not only public institutions of higher learning to the locations where the possession or transport of firearms and weapons are banned. But also properties owned, leased or occupied by the institution, including some streets and potential private homes where students rent rooms. This bill is flawed and will lead to needless prosecutions. OPPOSE

HB 162  Public Safety – Firearm Application
Sponsored by an anti-2A pro, gun control Delegate; this is a simple bill to remove the requirement for a physical copy of the applicant’s HQL and allow the use of the purchaser’s HQL number. This will benefit the applicant, dealer and the MSP. Cross-filed with SB 16. SUPPORT

HB 294  Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Definition of Convicted of a Disqualifying Crime
A rather curious bill in that the new language duplicates existing language in the same section of current code. The new language may be intended to qualify the existing language in the code. Cross-filed with SB 224. OPPOSE
HOUSE GUN BILLS (continued)

HB 318  Public Safety - Firearms Disqualifications - Antique Firearm
To add and include antique firearms to the list of firearms a person who is prohibited from owning or possessing. This bill was prompted by a domestically related homicide in which the perpetrator used a black powder pistol. As a crime prevention/public safety bill it is useless. Antique firearms and replicas of antique firearms are not federally regulated and thus a NICS check cannot be done. While antiques and replicas might be confiscated by law enforcement; there is no means for a dealer to identify a person who is prohibited and thus no means to prevent a subsequent purchase. Cross-filed with SB 467. **OPPOSE**

HB 339  Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Correctional Officer
An applicant for a permit is presumed to have a good and substantial reason to carry, wear, or transport a handgun if the applicant is an active correctional officer certified under § 8–208 of the correctional services article. This bill is flawed in that it provides nothing after the officer retires, the threat continues to exist after the officer retires. For the most part, this bill does nothing for the average gun owner. **SUPPORT**

HB 425  Public Schools - Suspensions and Expulsions
The ultimate in feel good legislation dealing with suspensions and expulsions for children in kindergarten, first and second grade who bring a firearm to school. This bill does not impact law-abiding gun owners. Cross-filed with SB 651. **No Position**

HB 608  Criminal Law - Crimes Against Property - Right to Defend Property
Providing that an occupant of a dwelling is justified in using any degree of physical force against another person when the other person has made an unlawful entry into the dwelling, and the occupant reasonably believes that the intruder has committed a crime in the dwelling in addition to the unlawful entry or is committing or intends to commit a crime against a person or property in addition to the unlawful entry; establishing that a person acting in accordance with the Act is immune from specified criminal prosecution; etc. Cross-filed with SB1011. **No Position**

HB 610  Public Safety - Handgun Permit - Applicant Qualifications
A simple bill removing the “good and substantial requirement for issuance of a permit to carry a handgun. **SUPPORT**

HB 611  Handguns - School Employees - Handgun Permits and Carrying Weapons on School Property
To empower school boards to authorize the wear and carry of handguns on school property by certain school employees. **SUPPORT**
HOUSE GUN BILLS (continued)

HB 663 Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications
A very clean bill which adds personal protection and self-defense as a good and substantial reason for a carry permit. **Cross-filed with SB 511. SUPPORT**

HB 820 Handgun Permits - Universal Recognition
Will compel Maryland to recognize carry permits issued in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C. or West Virginia. However, some states such as Pennsylvania require that persons who are not residents of Pennsylvania must have a permit in their home state of residence before Pennsylvania will issue a carry permit. Not a perfect bill, and does not grant reciprocity, but still worth supporting. **SUPPORT**

HB 821 Firearms - Permit to Wear, Carry, or Transport a Handgun - Expiration and Renewal
A very simple bill to change the duration of when permits are valid. Currently, initial permits are valid for two years and renewals are valid for three years. This bill will make both initial permits and renewals valid for five years. **SUPPORT**

HB 827 Public Safety - Secretary of State Police - Temporary Firearms Training Waiver
To authorize the Secretary of the Maryland State Police to temporarily waive the training requirement in certain instances wherein the purchaser is exposed to an imminent threat of bodily harm. **SUPPORT**

HB 875 Firearms - Handgun Qualification License - Firearms Safety Training
Revising the training requirements for a Handgun Qualification License (HQL) to permit online training, remove the live fire requirement and require the Secretary to adopt the appropriate regulations to implement these revised HQL training standards. **SUPPORT**

HB 877 Handgun Permits – Alternative Expiration Date – Private Detectives, Security Guards, and Special Police Officers
This bill is intended to synchronize the expiration dates of carry permits to the expiration dates of private detective, security guard and special police licenses. This bill is of no concern to most gun owners. **Cross-filed with SB 23. SUPPORT**

HB 891 Handgun Permits - Firearms Training Courses
Lowers the minimum number of hours of training for an initial permit to carry a handgun from the current 16 hours to a minimum of 6 hours. The minimum hours for a permit renewal would be reduced from the current 8 hours to 2 hours. - **SUPPORT**

HB 905 Public Safety – Handgun Qualification License – Application Fee
Reduces the cost of a handgun qualification license (HQL) from $50 to $25. **SUPPORT**
**HOUSE GUN BILLS (continued)**

**HB 906**  
Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Home Invasion  
Specifically including home invasion as defined under existing § 6–202(b) “A person may not break and enter the dwelling of another with the intent to commit a crime of violence” as a crime of violence under § 14-101(a)(17) of the Criminal Law Article. **No Position**

**HB 958**  
Public Safety - Gun Shows - Captured Plate Data  
Defining gun show and stating it is not a legitimate law enforcement activity to store, or share captured plate data from a vehicle parked at, entering, or leaving a gun show without a warrant or articulable evidence of illegal activity. It would be preferable if the language clearly required a warrant and stipulated that any such activity without warrant is illegal. **SUPPORT**

**HB 1036**  
Firearms - Handgun Permit - Preliminary Approval  
Revising the existing statute which requires that a citizen who wishes to obtain a permit to carry a handgun must complete an expensive training course as a prerequisite to apply for the permit to carry a handgun. The language of this bill would revise the statute to reverse the order and allow the applicant to obtain a preliminary review and determination regarding he applicant’s eligibility for a permit to carry before investing the time and money in training only to be denied a permit to carry a handgun. Limiting the time the applicant has to complete the training. **SUPPORT**

**HB 1108**  
Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Disqualifying Crime  
Under the Public Safety Article §5-101, crimes which disqualify a person from owning certain firearms are crimes of violence, felonies and certain misdemeanors which carry a statutory penalty of more than two years. The operative term is what penalty the offender could have received and not the penalty imposed. Recent changes in Maryland law have retroactively disqualified some individuals, even in cases involving a probation before judgement (PBJ) is given. Thus, in some instances, a PBJ becomes the equivalent of a conviction where gun rights are concerned. If the penalty for a crime is increased, some persons who could previously still own a firearm become retroactively disqualified. HB 1108 addresses this problem by “freezing” the penalty to that which is/was in place at the time of the offense. **SUPPORT**

**HB 1396**  
Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Penalties - Subsequent Offenders  
Prohibiting the courts from suspending any part of the sentences for illegally wearing, carrying or transporting a handgun for offenders who have be previously convicted for this offense. **Cross-filed with SB 826. SUPPORT**
HOUSE GUN BILLS (continued)

HB 1398  Public Safety - Police Profiling - "Right-to-Carry" Permit
Stating that is not a legitimate law enforcement purpose to use captured plate data that indicates the owner of the vehicle has been issued a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun as the sole basis to stop and question the vehicle’s driver. This bill has nothing to do with “Right to Carry.” Because there is absolutely no link between the Motor Vehicle Administration database and the Maryland State Police carry permit database, this bill is a solution for a non-issue. **No position**

HB 1424  Criminal Procedure - Firearms – Transfer
Requiring judges to advise persons who because of a conviction are now prohibited from owning or possessing firearms that they are now prohibited from owning or possessing firearms. Providing a time frame and methods for disposing or transferring the firearms. As was the case in the 2016 Session the bill is flawed.  Cross-filed with SB 727. **No Position**

HB 1448  Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns – Transactions
The Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996, banned the private sales/transfers of handguns and required that they go through a dealer or the Maryland State Police. With the exception that this bill does not involve a waiting period or the full background check the Maryland State Police do for handguns; SB 948 is similar in concept to the MGVA of 1996. In the case of HB 1448, a NICS check will be required because the dealer must record the transaction in the AD&D records book. Obviously, the dealer will charge a fee for this service.

This bill defines a “transfer” in rather broad terms including lending or renting a firearm. How this definition compares to the court ruling in the Chow v. Maryland case needs to be explored in detail. There are several exceptions where the bill will not apply to certain transfers. Even these exceptions are limited in scope and will have a severe and negative impact on the shooting activities of many gun clubs.

The penalties for transferring a rifle or shotgun beyond the exceptions listed and without the services of a firearms dealer, or for providing false information are severe and will result in the offender being disqualified for life. **OPPOSE**
HOUSE GUN BILLS (continued)

HB 1491  Public Institutions of Higher Education - Events Held by Conservation Organizations
This bill would essentially preempt firearms bans on public higher education facilities provided the organization using the facility is a conservation organization as designated by the reference IRS code. Cross-filed with SB 721. SUPPORT

HB 1521  Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Commission to Study Firearm Violence – Establishment
Another state funded study to analyze but with a twist. The language stipulates a Commission populated in such a way that the outcome of the study is essentially a foregone conclusion. No provision for members of the 2A community on the Commission. OPPOSE
SENATE GUN BILLS

SB 16  Public Safety – Firearm Application
A simple bill to remove the requirement for a physical copy of the applicant’s HQL and allow the use of the purchaser’s HQL number. This will benefit the applicant, dealer and the MSP.  *Cross-filed with HB 162. SUPPORT*

SB 23  Handgun Permits – Alternative Expiration Date – Private Detectives, Security Guards, and Special Police Officers
This bill is intended to synchronize the expiration dates of carry permits to the expiration dates of private detective, security guard and special police licenses. This bill is of no concern to most gun owners. *Cross-filed with HB 877. SUPPORT*

SB 160  Handgun Permits – Multijurisdictional Recognition
This bill would make a permit to carry a handgun issued to an individual in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., or West Virginia is valid in Maryland. This bill does not specifically address whether the permit holder must reside in the state that issued the permit but residence in the state of issue does not appear to be required. *SUPPORT*

SB 224  Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Definition of Convicted of a Disqualifying Crime
A rather curious bill in that the new language duplicates existing language in the same section of current code. *Cross-filed with HB 294. OPPOSE*

SB 245  Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications
Introduced in the 2015 Session as SB 0100, this bill is a straightforward right to carry bill clarifying that self-defense qualifies as a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun for purposes of the issuance of a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun. *SUPPORT*

SB 467  Public Safety - Firearms Disqualifications - Antique Firearm
To add and include antique firearms to the list of firearms a person who is prohibited from owning or possessing. This bill was prompted by a domestically related homicide in which the perpetrator used a black powder pistol. As a crime prevention/public safety bill it is useless. Antique firearms and replicas of antique firearms are not federally regulated and thus a NICS check cannot be done. While antiques and replicas might be confiscated by law enforcement. There is no means for a dealer to identify a person who is prohibited and thus no means to prevent a subsequent purchase. *Cross-filed with HB 318. OPPOSE*
SENATE GUN BILLS (continued)

SB 511  Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications
A very clean bill which adds personal protection and self-defense as a good and substantial reason for a carry permit. Cross-filed with HB 663. SUPPORT

SB 651  Public Schools - Suspensions and Expulsions
The ultimate in feel good Kumbaya legislation dealing with suspensions and expulsions for children in kindergarten, first and second grade who bring a firearm to school. This bill does not impact law-abiding gun owners. Cross-filed with HB 425. No Position

SB 721  Public Institutions of Higher Education - Events Held by Conservation Organizations
This bill would essential pre-empt firearms bans on public higher education facilities provided the organization using the facility is a conservation organization as designated by the reference IRS code. Cross-filed with HB 1491. SUPPORT

SB 727  Criminal Procedure - Firearms – Transfer
Requiring judges to advise persons who because of a conviction are now prohibited from owning or possessing fires that they are now prohibited from owning or possessing firearms. Providing a time frame and methods for disposing or transferring the firearms. As was the case in the 2016 Session the bill is flawed. Cross-filed with HB 1424. No Position

SB 826  Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Penalties - Subsequent Offenders
Prohibiting the courts from suspending any part of the sentences for illegally wearing, carrying or transporting a handgun for offenders who have be previously convicted for this offense. Cross-filed with HB 1396. Support

SB 946  Weapon-Free Higher Education Zones
Banning the carry or possession while knowingly on the property of a public institution. Providing certain exceptions for active, off-duty and retired law enforcement officers and person hired by the institution as guards or other persons authorized by the institution to carry or possess a firearm. While the provision that the person must be knowingly on the property to constitute a violation, there is no provision requiring signage to be posted to identify the property and advise that firearms are prohibited. A violation is a felony offense, punishable by up to three years and a $2.5K fine. No exceptions for armored car crews. OPPOSE
SENATE GUN BILLS (continued)

SB 948  Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions
The Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996, banned the private sales/transfers of handguns and required that they go through a dealer or the Maryland State Police. With the exception that this bill does not involve a waiting period or the full background check the Maryland State Police do for handguns; SB 948 is similar in concept to the MGVA of 1996. In the case of SB 948, a NICS check will be required because the dealer must record the transaction in the AD&D records book. Obviously, the dealer will charge a fee for this service.

This bill defines a “transfer” in rather broad terms including lending or renting a firearm. How this definition compares to the court ruling in the Chow v. Maryland case needs to be explored in detail. There are several exceptions where the bill will not apply to certain transfers. Even these exceptions are limited in scope and will have a severe and negative impact on the shooting activities of many gun clubs.

The penalties for transferring a rifle or shotgun beyond the exceptions listed and without the services of a firearms dealer, or for providing false information are severe and will result in the offender being disqualified for life. **OPPOSE**

SB 1011  Criminal Law - Crimes Against Property - Right to Defend Property
Providing that an occupant of a dwelling is justified in using any degree of physical force against another person when the other person has made an unlawful entry into the dwelling, and the occupant reasonably believes that the intruder has committed a crime in the dwelling in addition to the unlawful entry or is committing or intends to commit a crime against a person or property in addition to the unlawful entry; establishing that a person acting in accordance with the Act is immune from specified criminal prosecution; etc. **Cross-filed with HB 608. No Position**

SB 1091  Public Safety - Permit to Wear, Carry, or Transport a Handgun - Expiration and Renewal
Altering the time period in which a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun expires to be 5 years after the issuance; and altering the time period for renewal of a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun to 5 years after the last renewal. **SUPPORT**

SB 1180  Public Safety - Handgun Permit Review Board - Repeal
Terminating the Handgun Permit Review Board (HPRB) appeal process for carry permit applications denied by the Maryland State Police. Abolishing the HPRB, and revising the appeal process wherein appeals will be made to the State Office of Administrative Hearings. **OPPOSE**
**HOUSE HUNTING BILLS**

**HB 4**  
**Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans**  
Would permit the DNR to issue discounted and complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to certain active and former members of the armed forces. *Cross filed with SB 46. No position*

**HB 61**  
**State Designations - State Waterfowl - Canvasback Duck**  
Designating the canvasback duck as the State waterfowl; and generally relating to a State waterfowl. Note: Strictly speaking, this is not a hunting bill. *Crossfiled with AB 1052. SUPPORT*

**HB 68**  
**Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Purple Heart Recipients**  
Would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to offer a complimentary hunting and/or fishing license to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart. *No position*

**HB 126**  
**Natural Resources – Wildlife and Hunting**  
Clarifying the authorized uses of the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund; repealing specified requirements that the Department of Natural Resources use specified funds from specified hunting license sales for specified purposes; requiring a person who harvests a game bird or mammal to report the harvest in accordance with specified regulations; requiring a person who possesses a game bird or mammal killed by means other than hunting to report the possession in accordance with specified regulations; etc. There are some provisions in HB 126 which may be causes for concern. *No position*

**HB 187**  
**St. Mary's County - Foxes and Hounds - Repeal of Provisions**  
Would repeal prohibitions on trapping foxes in St. Mary’s County and removes prohibitions on shooting foxes being pursued by hounds. Remove prohibition on shooting or molesting a hound while chasing a fox. *Cross-filed with SB 103. No position*

**HB 305**  
**Kent County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property – Sundays**  
Adds Kent County to the list of jurisdictions where turkey hunting on private property will be legal on Sundays. This is an emergency bill only to allow it to take effect in time for the Spring turkey season. *Cross-filed with SB 628. SUPPORT*

**HB 310**  
**Montgomery County - Deer Hunting - Sundays MC 21-17**  
Exempting Montgomery County from some provisions on Sunday hunting and establishing certain restrictions specific to Montgomery County. Generally speaking, HB 310 is not a hunting friendly bill. *Pending*
HOUSE HUNTING BILLS (continued)

HB 312  Kent County - Deer Hunting – Sundays
This bill applies only in Kent County. Subject to §§ 10–411 and 10–415 of this subtitle, the Department of Natural Resources may allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property throughout all deer hunting seasons. Cross-filed with SB 629. SUPPORT

HB 313  Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone MC 10-17
This bill appears to reduce the extent of the safety zone for archery hunting only and only in Montgomery County. Pending

HB 368  Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Stamps - Seniors, Veterans, and Military Personnel (Howard's Law)
Repealing the annual fees for a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license and a resident senior hunting license; establishing that, under certain circumstances, a nonresident member of the armed forces of the United States is not required to obtain certain hunting or fishing licenses. SUPPORT

HB 655  Frederick County - Hunting - Nongame Birds and Mammals
A simple bill to remove the current prohibition on hunting nongame birds and mammals in Frederick County without first obtaining a hunting license. Cross-filed with SB 519. SUPPORT

HB 686  Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention
This bill is essentially the ivory ban we opposed in the past due to its overreach and numerous collateral impacts enforcement problems. Crossfiled with SB 560. OPPOSE

HB 788  Natural Resources - Hunting – Deer Management Permits
Authorizing a person with a deer management permit or an agent of the person holding the permit, to hunt on any Sunday throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons. Authorizing a management permit holder or the holder’s agent to hunt deer on state owned land which has been leased by the permit holder for the purpose of cultivating crops. Cross-filed with SB 844. SUPPORT

HB 894  Wicomico County – Deer Hunting - Sundays
Adding Wicomico County to the list of jurisdictions permitting Sunday hunting of deer on private land. SUPPORT
HOUSE HUNTING BILLS (continued)

HB 1111  Natural Resources - Eastern Shore - Deer Firearms Season
Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish deer hunting regulation by July 1st of each year for the following counties: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester. The regulations shall include at least two consecutive weeks beginning in late November plus the entire month of January. Cross-filed with SB 953. SUPPORT

HB 1203  Talbot County - Deer Management Permit - Use of Rifles
Allowing persons hunting deer under a deer management permit to use certain approved rifles if the permit holder has a valid state shooter qualification card and subject to the conditions set forth in the permit. This bill applies to Talbot County ONLY. Cross-filed with SB 954. SUPPORT

HB 1246  Forests and Parks - Public Recreation on Private and State-Owned Land - Hunting
To create a “permission slip” granting access and use to certain private and state-owned land for OHV use and hunting. Establish regulations to allow this use. Support

HB 1361  Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty - Hunting Exemptions
Providing the certain hunting activities and methods do not constitute animal cruelty. Pending

HB 1427  Natural Resources - Apprentice Hunting License - Establishment
Providing for a low cost limited term (3 consecutive days) one-time apprentice hunting license without the need for prior hunter safety course or special stamps. Establishing requirements for the person accompanying the apprentice hunter, etc. SUPPORT with Amendments

HB 1629  Natural Resources - Hunting Licenses - Fox Hunting and Chasing
Changing some provisions regarding fox hunting/chasing. Crossfiled with SB 1141. No position.
SENATE HUNTING BILLS

SB 46  Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans
Would permit the DNR to issue discounted and complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to certain active and former members of the armed forces. Cross-filed with HB 04.  No position

SB 66  Hunter Safety Courses – Incentives Program – Establishment
Would authorize the DNR to offer discounts and other incentives to persons who are not required by law to complete a hunter safety to encourage them to complete the hunter safety course. SUPPORT

SB 103  St. Mary's County - Foxes and Hounds - Repeal of Provisions
Would repeal prohibitions on trapping foxes in St. Mary's County and removes prohibitions on shooting foxes being pursued by hounds. Remove prohibition on shooting or molesting a hound while chasing a fox. Cross-filed with HB 187. No position

SB 181  Natural Resources Police - Conditions of Sentencing, Probation, Parole, or Mandatory Release Supervision – Database
Requiring the Maryland Judiciary to notify the Department of Natural Resources of any person who is subject to a condition of sentencing or probation that specifically prohibits the person from operating a motorized vessel or a sailboat on the waters of the State or any recreational or commercial hunting activity in the State; requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to notify the Department of Natural Resources of any person who is subject to specified terms of parole or mandatory release supervision; etc. Cross-filed with HB 187. No position

SB 519  Frederick County - Hunting - Nongame Birds and Mammals
A simple bill to remove the current prohibition on hunting nongame birds and mammals in Frederick County without first obtaining a hunting license. Cross-filed with HB 655. SUPPORT

SB 560  Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention
This bill is essentially the ivory ban we opposed in the past due to its overreach and numerous collateral impacts enforcement problems. Crossfiled with HB 686. OPPOSE

SB 628  Kent County – Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
Authorizing the hunting of turkey on private property in Kent County on certain Sundays. Cross-filed with HB 305. SUPPORT
**SENATE HUNTING BILLS (continued)**

**SB 844 Natural Resources - Hunting – Deer Management Permits**
Authorizing a person with a deer management permit or an agent of the person holding the permit, to hunt on any Sunday throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons. Authorizing a management permit holder or the holder’s agent to hunt deer on state owned land which has been leased by the permit holder for cultivating crops. *Cross-filed with HB 788. SUPPORT*

**SB 953 Natural Resources - Eastern Shore - Deer Firearms Season**
Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish deer hunting regulation by July 1st of each year for the following counties: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester. The regulations shall include at minimum two consecutive weeks beginning in late November plus the entire month of January. *Cross-filed with HB 1111. SUPPORT*

**SB 954 Talbot County - Deer Management Permit - Use of Rifles**
Allowing persons hunting deer under a deer management permit to use certain approved rifles if the permit holder has a valid state shooter qualification card and subject to the conditions set forth in the permit. This bill applies to Talbot County ONLY. *Cross-filed with HB 1203. SUPPORT*

**SB 1052 State Designations - State Waterfowl - Canvasback Duck**
Designating the canvasback duck as the State waterfowl; and generally relating to a State waterfowl. Note: Strictly speaking, this is not a hunting bill. *Crossfiled with HB 61. SUPPORT*

**SB 1141 Natural Resources - Hunting Licenses - Fox Hunting and Chasing**
Changing some provisions regarding fox hunting/chasing. Crossfiled with HB 1629. *No position.*