

# HOUSE BILL 636

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By: **Delegates Vogt, Afzali, Folden, Glass, Malone, McComas, Rey, Rose, Shoemaker, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Bow Hunting – Possession of Handguns for Protection**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding to apply statewide the prohibition against the Department  
4 of Natural Resources restricting licensed bow hunters from carrying a handgun  
5 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the use of weapons while  
6 hunting wildlife.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Natural Resources

9 Section 10–408

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 10–408.

16 (a) In this section, “handgun” means a firearm:

17 (1) With a barrel length not exceeding 6 inches; and

18 (2) That does not have a scope or an electronic device attached.

19 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Department  
20 shall:

21 (i) Prescribe by regulation the means or weapons for hunting

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 designated wildlife; and

2 (ii) Set forth any restrictions relating to weapons used to hunt  
3 designated wildlife, including the amount and size of ammunition for designated game  
4 birds or mammals.

5 (2) The Department may not prohibit a licensed bow hunter from openly  
6 carrying a handgun that the hunter is otherwise authorized to carry under § 4–203 of the  
7 Criminal Law Article if the bow hunter:

8 (i) Is at least 21 years old;

9 (ii) [Is hunting in deer management Region A as defined by the  
10 Department's Guide to Hunting and Trapping;

11 (iii)] Is carrying the handgun for personal protection; and

12 [(iv)] (III) Does not use the handgun to kill wildlife wounded by a  
13 vertical bow or crossbow.

14 (c) The Department shall make the regulations available for distribution with  
15 each hunting license purchased.

16 (d) This section does not authorize the Department to restrict the use of firearms  
17 except in the activity of hunting designated wildlife.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2018.