

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., February 21, 2024
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for February 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from January 17, 2024, Meeting

2024-2026 Hunting Regulation Concepts Update (Director Karina Stonesifer)

2024 Legislative Session Update (Associate Director Brian Eyler)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (TBD)

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)

Old Business:

- **Use of Drone for Deer Recovery (Group Discussion)**

New Business:

- **Bike Trail Piney Mountain and Savage Mountain (Group Discussion)**

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2024 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 17th	Google Meet
February 21st	Google Meet
March 20th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
April 17th	Google Meet
May 15th	No Meeting
June 19th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 17th	No Meeting
August 21st	Google Meet
September 18th	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 16th	Google Meet
November 20th	Google Meet
December 18th	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meet. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 am. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Wagner asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Approval for February 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the Commission Meeting Agenda for February 21, 2024.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from January 17, 2024, Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept the January 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Cole seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

2024-2026 Hunting Regulation Concepts Update – Karina Stonesifer, Director

- Director Karina Stonesifer mentioned to the Commission that the proposals were posted online and will remain online through February 26, 2024.
- Staff are reviewing the comments as they come in. Once the comments are reviewed, staff will present a summary of the comments for final recommendations to the Commission on March 20, 2024. The Commission will vote on the final recommendations at the March 20, 2024, meeting.
- Staff members do not edit comments, but staff must remove any private information.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Keithley asked if the blood-tracking dog regulations were in the proposals submitted for comment.
 - a. Director Stonesifer replied, “No.”
 - b. Reviewing the current regulations and tightening the tracking regulations is not a heavy lift. Staff recognized the need to convene a modified stakeholder group to examine these regulations for changes.
 2. Ms. Lindsay Thompson from the public wrote a question in the chat. Ms. Thompson asked if there would be any in-person sessions this year.
 - a. Director Stonesifer responded, “No,” but the public may provide comments online. Staff decided to go with the online system due to the lack of attendance at the in-person meetings. Staff accept comments online, by fax, mail, and telephone.
 3. Commissioner Showalter mentioned receiving many comments on the waterfowl seasons and asked if the Commission would discuss these seasons at the March 20 meeting.
 - a. Director Stonesifer mentioned that discussions typically occur during the final recommendations of the proposals for the Commission voting process.
 - b. Director Stonesifer recognized that the public had been very vocal about the 30-day and two-bird bag limit during the Canada goose season compared to the 45-day and one-bird bag limit. Staff presented what the federal government allows; staff cannot go any longer than the 30-day limit.
 - c. Chair Wagner reiterated that Maryland could have a 30-day and one bird bag limit, but Maryland cannot have a 45-day and one bird bag limit because 45 days is outside of the

- federal framework. Maryland is allowed to have less but not more than the federal frameworks.
4. Commissioner Showalter asked if staff would implement the Sunday dates for the 2024-2025 hunting season if the Sunday hunting bill passes.
 - a. Yes, the Sunday hunting dates will be implemented for the 2024-2025 season.
 - b. Staff have changed regulations due to Sunday hunting bills passing through. Staff have had discussions with the federal government, and the federal government agreed to work with staff on Sunday hunting. Therefore, staff will work with the federal government to implement the Sunday dates into the 2024-2025 season.
 5. Commissioner Showalter asked about the January season split. It starts and ends on weekdays, January 14, 2025 – January 31, 2025. If the federal government permits it, why not start it a day later, including another weekend, and pick up a third Saturday on February 1, 2025?
 - a. These are legitimate comments that staff could accommodate under the federal framework. Remember that staff cannot accommodate the 45-day due to the 30-day federal framework that has been set.
 - b. When Maryland was in the last restrictive package five years ago, staff received much public comment and took a hard look at things. Staff decided that with the 30-day restrictive package, Maryland would overlap the goose season with those 30 days during the duck season. Again, it was because the most common comments received during that time were that hunters like duck and goose season to overlap as much as possible.
 - c. Staff could accommodate starting the January date later, but the downside would be that hunters will not have the duck and goose overlap.

2024 Legislative Session Update – Brian Eyler, Associate Director

- Associate Director Eyler mentioned that he listed bills on the Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation as of February 20, 2024. All the Senate bills are cross-filed with House bills on the list.

[ATTACHMENT A]

- The Commission members can track the bills online at the Maryland General Assembly website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>.
- Discussion ensued on bills.
- The Commission decided to take positions on the bills (support, oppose, or watch).

[ATTACHMENT B]

- Motion to Oppose HB0430 Firearms – Liability Insurance – Public Wearing and Carrying:
 1. Vice Chair Schroyer moved to oppose HB0430 Firearms - Liability Insurance – Public Wearing and Carrying.
 2. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion.
 3. Motion passed with one abstention.
 4. Chair Wagner and Commissioner Showalter will collaborate to compile a letter from the Commission opposing HB0430.
- Motion to Oppose HB0590 and SB0924 Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts.
 1. Commissioner Showalter moved to oppose HB0590 and SB0924 Boating – Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts.
 2. Vice Chair Schroyer seconded the motion.
 3. Motion passed with one abstention.
 4. Chair Wagner and Commissioner Showalter will collaborate to compile a letter from the Commission opposing HB0590 and SB0924.
- Discussion on HB1473 and SB0983 Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase Out.
 1. Commissioner Kullberg noted that she supports the HB1473 and SB0983 bills.
 2. These types of bills passed in California a couple of years ago, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is moving to include all the significant refuges, including those in Maryland. They will be required to follow by September 2026. When the USFWS did this for migratory game birds, it was a federal initiative, and they did the training and outreach and worked with the

manufacturers. However, each state decides this time, so it is a different model.

3. These bills require the Department to create a certification program.
4. Different studies relate to lead/lead-based vs. non-lead ammunition, but no apparent trend exists. It is easier to get weight and energy out of lead and lead-based ammunition.
- Motion to Oppose HB1473 and SB0983 Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase Out.
 1. Commissioner Parks moved to oppose HB1473 and SB0983 Hunting—Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition—Phase Out. He outlined that we should give it another year since the bill was introduced last year; it will most likely come up again next year so that we can see what happens with the ammunition manufacturers to help make it a more palatable solution.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded the motion.
 3. Motion passed with one opposed.
 4. Chair Wagner and Commissioner Showalter will collaborate to compile a letter from the Commission opposing HB1473 and SB0983.
- Motion to Support HB1500 and SB0847 Dorchester County – Sunday Hunting – Repeal of Time Restriction.
 1. Commissioner Keithley moved to support HB1500 and SB0847 Dorchester County – Sunday Hunting – Repeal of Time Restriction.
 2. Commissioner Rossignuolo seconded the motion.
 3. Motion passed with one abstention.
 4. Chair Wagner and Commissioner Showalter will collaborate to compile a letter from the Commission supporting HB1500 and SB0847.
- Chair Wagner and Commissioner Showalter will email the Commission for their approval before sending the letters to the Committees.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB) – Parker Welch, Executive Director

- Executive Director Welch said he wanted to keep in touch with the Commission and staff because it has been some time since Mr. Coby Ferguson left.
- Traditionally, MFB Government Relation Director Tyler Hough will attend the Commission meetings. However, Mr. Hough was unable to attend.
- MFB is busy with the legislative session.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – Captain Shawn Garren gave a presentation.

- As of February 2024, the total number of violations is 1,604.
- There were 451 wildlife violations, 192 boating violations, 165 public lands violations, 225 fisheries violations, and 568 traffic violations.
- The percentage per category is 12% boating, 35% traffic, 10% public lands, 28% wildlife, and 14% fisheries violations.
- A colonel was appointed to the Natural Resources Police; the person will start on April 17, 2024.
- Recruitment—NRP recently held a small class, and graduates are now doing field training. That is one reason traffic violations are high. The graduates are required to make 50 traffic stops per officer to obtain access to the e-ticket system. In the next month, these officers will have completed their field training.
- NRP is in a hiring freeze until the new colonel is onboard.

Old Business

- The Use of Drones for Deer Recovery was tabled until the next meeting. The Commission hopes staff will have more information at the March 20, 2024, meeting to help the Commission decide if the members need to move forward with regulations or guidelines for drone recovery.

New Business

- The Commission received a letter from a constituent about a bike trail at Piney Mountain and Big Savage Mountain. Chair Wagner requested that the Commission review the letter emailed to the

Commission. Chair Wagner commented that he thinks the questions asked are outside the scope of the Commission. The members of the Commission agreed with Chair Wagner’s input. Chair Wagner will contact the constituent directly.

- Commissioner Keithley asked Assistant Secretary Peditto about the status of the Wildlife and Heritage Service and the idea of designing some black bear tags for auction for some of the organizations in the state. Commissioner Keithley mentioned that he suggested this at the stakeholder's meeting. There appeared to be some issues with the concept of being legal in Maryland. Commissioner Keithley requested a direct answer on whether the Wildlife and Heritage Service can allocate a certain number of black bear tags to a Bowhunters Society of Maryland, for example.
 1. Assistant Secretary Peditto responded that if the outcome is that the organization is doing the auction and receives any of the proceeds from that effort, the Wildlife and Heritage Service would need specific statutory authority. It is not unlike what happened with the lifetime hunting license, going back to about 15 years ago, when the legislature laid out a plan for x number of licenses and who got what in terms of the proceeds.
 2. Assistant Secretary Peditto added that the Wildlife and Heritage Service may have authority on most issues in the Natural Resources Article. However, the legislature retains the authority for setting fees, and this suggestion would fall under that authority.
 3. Commissioner Keithley emphasized that donating black bear tags would encourage organizations to work together and build a closer relationship with the Wildlife and Heritage Service.
 4. Commissioner Showalter mentioned other states with governor’s tags or other donations, which allow the organizations to keep 10%, and 90% is allocated to the state. Commissioner Showalter questioned whether it is worth the effort in Maryland for a few black bear tags to go through the legislature process.
 5. Commissioner Keithley acknowledged Commissioner Showalter’s comments but agreed that donating black bear tags could go a long way in bridging the gap between some of the hunting organizations and the Department. On the legislative side, Commissioner Keithley could work with Hunters of Maryland LLC on this project and with many others to introduce a bill. Commissioner Keithley recognized that it would not generate much money but create other intangibles.
- Commissioner Showalter requested a License Portal Update at the March 20, 2024, meeting.

Public Comment –

- No public comment.
- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at wac.dnr@maryland.gov.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in person or using Google Meet for individuals who cannot meet in person.

Attendance

Members:	M. Cole, T.J. Jenkins, S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, J. Schroyer, K. Rossignuolo, R. Showalter, and C. Wagner
Absent:	M. Smith
Guest:	L. Compton, S. Boyles Griffin, T. McGowan, K. Thompson, and L. Thompson
Staff:	B. Eyler, S. Garren, J. Homyack, C. Markin, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer, G. Timko, and J. Trudeau

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
HB0022 (SB0178)	Agriculture - Pollinator Habitat Plan - Requirements for State Highway Administration	Delegate Ruth	In the House - Hearing 2/07 at 2:30 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/07/2024 - 2:30 PM	Finance 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM Education, Energy, and the Environment
HB0045 (SB0284)	Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	In the Senate - First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation 1/31/2024 - 3:00 PM	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
HB0345 (SB0916)	Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species - Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations	Delegate Palakovich Carr	In the House - Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM
HB0379 (SB0547)	Wildlife - Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition	Delegate Love	In the House - Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB0430 Oppose	Firearms - Liability Insurance - Public Wearing and Carrying	Delegate Hill	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m. (Judiciary)	Judiciary 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM Economic Matters	
HB0444 (SB0339)	Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements	Delegate Otto	In the House - Withdrawn by Sponsor		Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/20/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB0447 (SB0440)	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation	Delegate Ziegler	In the House - Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/08/2024 - 1:00 PM	Budget and Taxation 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB0481 (SB0367)	Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs - Authorization	Delegate Hutchinson	In the House - Hearing 2/16 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment
HB0497 (SB0508)	Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 2/16 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment
HB0530 (SB0645)	Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)	Delegate Boyce	In the House - Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM
HB0581 (SB0472)	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	Speaker	In the House - Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Health and Government Operations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/22/2024 - 1:00 PM

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
				2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB0590 (SB0924) Oppose	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Delegate Hutchinson	In the House - Hearing 2/16 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB0631	Natural Resources - Protection of Beaver Population and Habitat - County Authority (Beaver Believer Act)	Delegate Allen	In the House - Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB0715 (SB0533)	Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable	Delegate Griffith	In the House - Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment
HB0729	Department of the Environment - Nontidal Wetlands - Protection of Vernal Pools (Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2024)	Delegate Hill	In the House - Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB0778	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB0866 (SB0857)	Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Trail Fund and Off- Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board – Alterations and Establishment	Delegate Buckel	In the House - Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. (Environment and Transportation)	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM Ways and Means	Judicial Proceedings 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB0929 (SB0854)	Agriculture – Nuisance Insects	Washington County Delegation	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 9:00 a.m.
HB0957	Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB0979 (SB0915)	Agriculture - Invasive Plant Species - Regulation (Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act)	Delegate Foley	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/05/2024 - 1:00 PM

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
HB1129 (SB0902)	Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings	Delegate Ruth	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM Budget and Taxation
HB1190	Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions	Delegate Ruth	In the House - Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Health and Government Operations 3/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	
HB1473 (SB0983) Oppose	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	Delegate Stewart	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB1480 (SB0611)	Frederick and Washington Counties - Bow Hunting - Openly Carrying Handguns	Frederick County Delegation	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM
HB1500 (SB0847) Support	Dorchester County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Dorchester County Delegation	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0178 (HB0022)	Agriculture – Pollinator Habitat Plan – Requirements for State Highway Administration	Senator Klausmeier	In the Senate - Hearing 1/31 at 1:00 p.m. (Finance)	Finance 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation 2/07/2024 - 2:30 PM
SB0284 (HB0045)	Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate	Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment 1/31/2024 - 2:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 1/31/2024 - 3:00 PM
SB0339 (HB0444)	Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements	Senator Carozza	In the Senate - Hearing canceled	Education, Energy, and the Environment	In the House - Withdrawn by Sponsor
SB0367 (HB0481)	Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs - Authorization	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Favorable Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0440 (HB0447)	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation	Senator Elfreth	In the Senate - Hearing 1/31 at 1:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation	Ways and Means 2/08/2024 - 1:00 PM

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
				1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM	
SB0472 (HB0581)	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	President	In the Senate - Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/22/2024 - 1:00 PM	Health and Government Operations 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0508 (HB0497)	Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0533 (HB0715)	Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable	Senator Gallion	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0547 (HB0379)	Wildlife - Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition	Senator Elfreth	In the Senate - Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0611 (HB1480)	Frederick and Washington Counties – Bow Hunting – Openly Carrying Handguns	Senator Folden	In the Senate - Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations
SB0645 (HB0530)	Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)	Senator Elfreth	In the Senate - Hearing 2/16 at 9:00 a.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0847 (HB1500)	Dorchester County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations
SB0854 (HB0929)	Agriculture – Nuisance Insects	Washington County Senators	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 9:00 a.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0857 (HB0866)	Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Trail Fund and Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board - Alterations and Establishment	Senator McKay	In the Senate - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM Ways and Means

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
SB0902 (HB1129)	Wildlife – Protections and Highway Crossings	Senator Lewis Young	In the Senate - Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the Environment)	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM Budget and Taxation	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0915 (HB0979)	Agriculture – Invasive Plant Species – Regulation (Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act)	Senator Brooks	In the Senate - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/05/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0916 (HB0345)	Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species - Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations	Senator Brooks	In the Senate - Hearing 2/16 at 9:00 a.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0924 (HB0590)	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM
SB0983 (HB1473)	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	Senator Lewis Young	In the Senate - Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service – WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
HB0022 (SB0178)	Agriculture - Pollinator Habitat Plan - Requirements for State Highway Administration	Delegate Ruth	Environment and Transportation 2/07/2024 - 2:30 PM	Finance 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM Education, Energy, and the Environment	Support
HB0045 (SB0284)	Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	Environment and Transportation 1/31/2024 - 3:00 PM	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Support
HB0345 (SB0916)	Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species - Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations	Delegate Palakovich Carr	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	Support
HB0379 (SB0547)	Wildlife - Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition	Delegate Love	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Watch
HB0430	Firearms - Liability Insurance - Public Wearing and Carrying	Delegate Hill	Judiciary 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM Economic Matters		Oppose
HB0444 (SB0339)	Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements	Delegate Otto		Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/20/2024 - 1:00 PM	It was withdrawn, so no comments.
HB0447 (SB0440)	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation	Delegate Ziegler	Ways and Means 2/08/2024 - 1:00 PM	Budget and Taxation 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
HB0481 (SB0367)	Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs - Authorization	Delegate Hutchinson	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Oppose – WAC submitted a letter.
HB0497 (SB0508)	Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration	Delegate Hornberger	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Watch
HB0530 (SB0645)	Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)	Delegate Boyce	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	Watch
HB0581 (SB0472)	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	Speaker	Health and Government Operations 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/22/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
HB0590 (SB0924)	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Delegate Hutchinson	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	Oppose
HB0631	Natural Resources - Protection of Beaver Population and	Delegate Allen	Environment and Transportation		Watch

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service – WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
	Habitat - County Authority (Beaver Believer Act)		2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM		
HB0715 (SB0533)	Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable	Delegate Griffith	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Energy, and the Environment	Support
HB0729	Department of the Environment - Nontidal Wetlands - Protection of Vernal Pools (Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2024)	Delegate Hill	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM		Support
HB0778	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds	Delegate Hornberger	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM		Support – WAC submitted a letter.
HB0866 (SB0857)	Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Trail Fund and Off- Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board – Alterations and Establishment	Delegate Buckel	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM Ways and Means	Judicial Proceedings 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
HB0929 (SB0854)	Agriculture – Nuisance Insects	Washington County Delegation	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 9:00 a.m.	Watch
HB0957	Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans	Delegate Hornberger	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM		Watch
HB0979 (SB0915)	Agriculture - Invasive Plant Species - Regulation (Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act)	Delegate Foley	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/05/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
HB1129 (SB0902)	Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings	Delegate Ruth	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM Budget and Taxation	Watch
HB1190	Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions	Delegate Ruth	Health and Government Operations 3/13/2024 - 1:00 PM		Support
HB1473 (SB0983)	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	Delegate Stewart	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	Oppose

**Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service – WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
(as of February 20, 2024)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
HB1480 (SB0611)	Frederick and Washington Counties - Bow Hunting - Openly Carrying Handguns	Frederick County Delegation	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
HB1500 (SB0847)	Dorchester County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Dorchester County Delegation	Rules and Executive Nominations	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0178 (HB0022)	Agriculture – Pollinator Habitat Plan – Requirements for State Highway Administration	Senator Klausmeier	Finance 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation 2/07/2024 - 2:30 PM	Support
SB0284 (HB0045)	Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate	Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee	Education, Energy, and the Environment 1/31/2024 - 2:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 1/31/2024 - 3:00 PM	Support
SB0339 (HB0444)	Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements	Senator Carozza	Education, Energy, and the Environment	In the House - Withdrawn by Sponsor	Withdrawn
SB0367 (HB0481)	Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs - Authorization	Senator Mautz	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	Oppose
SB0440 (HB0447)	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation	Senator Elfreth	Budget and Taxation 1/31/2024 - 1:00 PM	Ways and Means 2/08/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0472 (HB0581)	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	President	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/22/2024 - 1:00 PM	Health and Government Operations 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0508 (HB0497)	Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration	Senator Bailey	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	Watch
SB0533 (HB0715)	Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable	Senator Gallion	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/21/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0547 (HB0379)	Wildlife - Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition	Senator Elfreth	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Watch
SB0611 (HB1480)	Frederick and Washington Counties – Bow Hunting – Openly Carrying Handguns	Senator Folden	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/13/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Support
SB0645 (HB0530)	Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland	Senator Elfreth	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation	Watch

Summary of 2024 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service – WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
(as of February 20, 2024)

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 44	Title	Primary Sponsor	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC’s Support or Oppose or Watch
	Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)		2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM	
SB0847 (HB1500)	Dorchester County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Senator Mautz	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Support
SB0854 (HB0929)	Agriculture – Nuisance Insects	Washington County Senators	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Watch
SB0857 (HB0866)	Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Trail Fund and Off- Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board - Alterations and Establishment	Senator McKay	Judicial Proceedings 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/29/2024 - 1:00 PM Ways and Means	Support
SB0902 (HB1129)	Wildlife – Protections and Highway Crossings	Senator Lewis Young	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM Budget and Taxation	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Watch
SB0915 (HB0979)	Agriculture – Invasive Plant Species – Regulation (Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act)	Senator Brooks	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/05/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0916 (HB0345)	Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species - Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations	Senator Brooks	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/16/2024 - 9:00 AM	Environment and Transportation 2/14/2024 - 1:00 PM	Support
SB0924 (HB0590)	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Senator Mautz	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	Environment and Transportation 2/16/2024 - 1:00 PM	Oppose
SB0983 (HB1473)	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	Senator Lewis Young	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/27/2024 - 1:00 PM	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Oppose