

# HOUSE BILL 511

M2  
HB 1480/24 – ENT

5lr2521  
CF SB 449

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By: **Frederick County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Frederick and Washington Counties – Bow Hunting – Openly Carrying**  
3 **Handguns**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting  
5 certain licensed bow hunters from openly carrying a handgun under certain  
6 circumstances in Frederick County and Washington County during deer hunting  
7 season; and generally relating to bow hunting in Frederick County and Washington  
8 County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 10–408  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 10–408.

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

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

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

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Prescribe by regulation the means or weapons for hunting  
2 designated wildlife; and

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

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

9 (i) Is at least 21 years old;

10 (ii) Is hunting in [deer]:

11 1. **DEER** management Region A as defined by the  
12 Department's Guide to Hunting and Trapping; **OR**

13 2. **FREDERICK COUNTY OR WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
14 **DURING DEER HUNTING SEASON;**

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

16 (iv) Does not use the handgun to kill wildlife wounded by a vertical  
17 bow or crossbow.

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

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

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2025.