

since they adequately express the reasons for my veto of Senate Bill 110, I have summarized the objections as follows:

- (1) The bill, as introduced, only affected Talbot County. There was no knowledge of the amendment and thus no opportunity to advise legislative delegations of the strong opposition to it.
- (2) It is impossible to know what a dog pursuing deer started out to hunt, and at what distant point it broke away. Thus, as a practical matter, dogs, in the counties excepted in this bill, can chase and kill or wound deer, without hindrance.
- (3) Exempting hounds from restraint leaves them free to run at a time when crops are growing and game are rearing their young, so that there would be greatly increased damage. Dogs are the chief predator of deer, particularly during the gestation period and for several months after the fawns are born.
- (4) Dogs which will pursue deer will molest livestock.
- (5) Rabbit, bird and 'coon dogs can not run or otherwise hunt game animals from March 1st to September 9th, and there is no reason to exempt fox hunting during this period, which is the vital time for protecting the newborn of almost every kind of ground nesting bird and animal.
- (6) It would promote and invite violation of the game laws by many persons hunting deer with dogs under the pretense of fox hunting.
- (7) Game wardens have resorted to killing dogs only when necessary actually to save deer, and there is no evidence of any abuse of this authority, without which they would regard themselves as helpless to protect deer.
- (8) In a number of counties, particularly those without dog licensing laws, packs of stray, homeless mongrels are beyond control and live on poultry, small livestock and game. They are particularly prone in the spring and summer months to destroy deer. Few would risk shooting even such dogs if this bill became law, because of the uncertainty of one's right to do so, and the distinct possibility that someone would claim that a half-wild cur was a valuable hound.
- (9) The danger of a foxhound being shot is a greater incentive to fox hunters to keep their dogs away from deer, than a fine would be, since running hounds are impossible to identify.
- (10) Many more people are interested in deer, both as game animals and as a subject of observation, than are interested in fox-hunting. This great majority of people have no desire to harm dogs, but feel strongly the need for adequate protection of deer as an equally humane objective.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,
Governor