

(Senate Bill 507)

AN ACT concerning

Spotlighting Hunting - Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting at any time the casting of artificial light from a vehicle on any woods, fields, orchards, livestock, wild animals or birds, dwellings or buildings; clarifying language; and providing an exception to the prohibition under certain circumstances.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 10-410(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1980 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

10-410.

(e) (1) A person, or two or more persons together, may not hunt or attempt to hunt at nighttime any ~~specie~~ SPECIES of wild bird or wild quadruped with a light, including the headlights of any vehicle, and [also between the hours 10 p.m. and dawn] a person, or two or more persons together, may not cast the rays of any artificial light when the rays emanate from a vehicle on any woods, fields, orchards, livestock, wild animals or birds, dwellings or buildings. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the normal use of headlights of a vehicle travelling on any public or private road in a normal manner, to any police, emergency or utility company vehicle using spotlights in the performance of their duties, or to any farmer or landowner on his own or leased land using artificial lights to check on HIS LAND, CROPS, livestock or poultry. However, raccoons, fox, or opossum may be hunted on foot at nighttime during open season with the use of a dog ~~and-light~~ OR LIGHT, OR BOTH.

(2) EXCEPT IN ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, ALLEGANY, GARRETT, KENT, CAROLINE, TALBOT, DORCHESTER, QUEEN ANNE'S, CECIL, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, A PERSON MAY CAST THE RAYS OF AN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT FROM A VEHICLE ON WOODS, FIELDS, ORCHARDS, LIVESTOCK, WILD ANIMALS OR BIRDS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF OBSERVING OR PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE FOR 2 HOURS AFTER SUNSET, BUT IN NO EVENT PAST 10:00 P.M. IF A PERSON CASTS THE RAYS OF ANY ARTIFICIAL LIGHT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH THE PERSON HAS THE BURDEN OF ESTABLISHING THAT HE WAS DOING SO FOR THE PURPOSES OF OBSERVING OR PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE.