

CHAPTER 641

(House Bill 650)

AN ACT concerning

Hunting - Black Bears

FOR the purpose of classifying the black bear as a forest game mammal for certain purposes.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 10-101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1984 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 10-101(e) and 10-405(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1984 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In the last several years, landowners in Garrett County have killed certain black bears, whose population is increasing in numbers in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Forest, Park, and Wildlife Service is performing studies on the black bear with ~~an-eye-to~~ the intent of bringing the black bear under much better management, with the possibility of having a limited hunting season; and

WHEREAS, Until these studies are completed, the General Assembly intends to give the black bear the full protection from hunters and ~~ether~~ others in the State; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly also intends this Act to reclassify the black bear as a forest game mammal in order that the Department of Natural Resources may include the black bear on its game list, which would prohibit the hunting of the black bear until it is feasible to provide for an open hunting season on the black bear; now, therefore,

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

Article - Natural Resources