

subsection (f) of this section, if an application is not approved or disapproved within 60 days after the record, including the public hearing process, has been closed, the application shall be deemed approved.

(2) Subject to paragraph [(3)] (2) of this subsection, at its discretion, the regulating entity may extend for good cause for a 60-day period the time for making a determination under subsection (f) of this section.

[(3)] (2) The regulating entity is limited to a maximum of two 60-day extensions for making a determination on the same application.

6.5-301.

(a) The appropriate regulating entity [shall] MAY NOT approve an acquisition unless it finds the acquisition is [not] in the public interest.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

May 15, 2002

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 9 – Deer Management Plans – Increased Harvest.

House Bill 9 increases the deer firearms season from 13 to at least 21 days, including the first Sunday of the season. The Sunday hunting provision does not apply in: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties; Baltimore City; and the City of Frederick.

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources has the authority to promulgate regulations establishing a hunting season, except on Sundays, to hunt forest and upland game birds and mammals. House Bill 9 restates the Department's current authority to increase the harvest in a region where the deer population is or will become a threat to public health or safety, or create a nuisance, because the population exceeds the carrying capacity of the zone. Proper management of the State's deer population is a complex problem requiring careful consideration of all the issues before reaching a conclusion.

Our outdoor resources should be shared fairly by everyone. Currently, Sunday during hunting season is the only day of the week when outdoor recreation such as hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, photography, angling, horseback riding, and other