

(i) Upon written request from a federal facility for a variance from the established deer hunting season, the Department shall review the request and may:

- (1) Approve the request;
- (2) Deny the request; or
- (3) Approve the request with conditions.

~~(E)~~ (J) IN A ZONE OF THE URBAN MANAGEMENT REGION IN WHICH THE DEER POPULATION HAS BECOME, OR IF LEFT UNATTENDED WILL BECOME, A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY OR A NUISANCE BECAUSE THE POPULATION IS IN EXCESS OF THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE ZONE, THE DEPARTMENT'S DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN MAY ALLOW FOR AN INCREASED HARVEST BY THE USE, AS APPROPRIATE, OF BAIT, PROFESSIONAL SHARPSHOOTERS, LETHAL DARTS, OR CAPTURE AND EUTHANASIA.

~~(F)~~ (K) (1) THE MEAT OF DEER HARVESTED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE DONATED TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE STATE FOR TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.

(2) PROCESSING COSTS FOR DONATED MEAT MAY BE PAID BY:

(I) PRIVATE DONATIONS; AND

(II) AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE DEPARTMENT, A PORTION OF THE REVENUE OBTAINED FROM THE PURCHASE OF DEER HUNTING LICENSES AND STAMPS ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION.

~~(G)~~ (L) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE ON:

(1) FOR EACH DEER MANAGEMENT REGION AND, AS APPROPRIATE, EACH ZONE WITHIN A REGION, THE STATUS OF THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE REGION OR ZONE IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRENT POPULATION OF DEER, AS PROJECTED FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS;

(2) THE IMPACT AND ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF INCREASED HARVEST MEASURES ON THE OVERPOPULATION OF DEER IN EACH DEER MANAGEMENT REGION OF THE STATE;

(3) THE EXTENT TO WHICH NATURAL PREDATORS HAVE REDUCED, AND ARE EXPECTED TO REDUCE, THE POPULATION;

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES; AND

(5) CITIZEN RESPONSE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002.