

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1811

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. **Patron:** March

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. **Title:** Hunting deer; establish continuous open season.

5. **Summary:** Establishes a continuous open season for hunting deer with any weapon permitted by law. In current law, the Board of Wildlife Resources adopts regulations that prescribe regular open and closed seasons for hunting deer. The bill retains the power granted to the Board to close or shorten a season for hunting (i) whenever extreme weather threatens the welfare of wild birds, wild animals, or fish; (ii) whenever such wild birds, wild animals, or fish have been seriously affected by adverse weather conditions; (iii) when investigation of the Board shows that there is an unusual scarcity of any species; or (iv) when there is substantial demand from any county or city.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) anticipates expenditure and revenue impacts because of this bill, but cannot provide concrete amounts.

According to DWR, a continuous open season may result in an increased number of violations related to weapon restrictions, hunter orange and other safety requirements, bag limits, trespass and other public land versus private land controls, and time of day restrictions, among others. This increase is anticipated to impact the workload of conservation police officers, potentially resulting in increased personal services costs to DWR.

DWR anticipates that revenues from the sales of a variety of permits and licenses, deposited into the Game Protection Fund which supports agency operations, will likely diminish because of this bill. According to the agency, archery and muzzleloader license sales will likely decline, as the option to hunt with modern firearms becomes available year-round. In fiscal year 2022, DWR collected \$625,950 from archery license sales and \$880,140 from muzzleloader license sales. In addition, DWR notes there could be a potential revenue reduction in fees paid by non-hunters to access agency wildlife management areas, as non-

hunters may be uncomfortable accessing these lands with deer hunting occurring on these lands year-round.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Wildlife Resources.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.