

HOUSE BILL 177

M2

(7lr1992)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Environment and Transportation/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs* —

Introduced by **Delegates McKay, Beitzel, and Buckel**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Killing or Wounding Black Bears – Penalties – Exemption for Protection of**
3 **Managed Honey Bee Colonies**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of
5 the life of a honey bee in a certain bee colony from certain penalties, subject to a
6 certain exception; establishing that the exemption ~~does not apply~~ *applies only* if the
7 individual has ~~not~~ taken certain actions; and generally relating to penalties for
8 killing or wounding a black bear.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Natural Resources
11 Section 10–423
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



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

Article – Natural Resources

10–423.

(a) ~~(1) Any~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ANY** penalty imposed under this section does not apply to an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of the individual's own life, the lives of other individuals, or the lives of animals, **INCLUDING HONEY BEES IN A BEE COLONY MANAGED BY THE INDIVIDUAL,** on the individual's property.

(2) THE EXEMPTION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL THAT KILLS OR WOUNDS A BLACK BEAR IN DEFENSE OF A HONEY BEE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY APPLIES ONLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT:

(i) CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRIC FENCE; AND

(ii) ~~INSTALLED~~ INSTALLED AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED THE AN ELECTRIC FENCE.

(b) If the Secretary adopts any regulation, including an emergency regulation, under § 10–205 of this title or § 10–405 of this subtitle to prohibit the hunting, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, carrying, transporting, or exporting of black bears, a person who violates the regulation is subject to the following penalties:

(1) For a first offense, a fine not exceeding \$1,500, imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both; and

(2) For a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$2,000, imprisonment not exceeding 1 year, or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2017.