

SENATE BILL 958

M4, M2

5lr3447
CF HB 1024

By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Agriculture to take extraordinary
4 measures to control deer populations and prevent future crop loss under certain
5 circumstances; and generally relating to deer and crop damage.

6 BY adding to
7 Article – Agriculture
8 Section 2–108
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Agriculture**

14 **2–108.**

15 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE” MEANS THE LOSS OF 50%
16 OR MORE OF CROPS FROM A SINGLE FIELD.

17 (B) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT DEER HAVE CAUSED
18 CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE TO A FIELD, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE
19 OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE DEER POPULATION CAUSING THE
20 CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE.

21 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
22 THIS SECTION.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED**
2 **TO USE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES UNDER THIS SECTION TO REPORT TO THE**
3 **DEPARTMENT THE NUMBER OF DEER HARVESTED AT EACH LOCATION OF**
4 **CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2025.