

HOUSE BILL 1299

M2
HB 1256/16 – ENV

5lr2369
CF 5lr3112

By: **Delegates Hornberger and Ciliberti**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Western Maryland – Elk**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to study the biological
4 carrying capacity and cultural carrying capacity of elk in Western Maryland;
5 requiring the Department to report certain findings and recommendations to the
6 Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to elk
7 in Western Maryland.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) In this section, “Western Maryland” means Allegany County and Garrett
11 County.

12 (b) The Department of Natural Resources shall:

13 (1) study the biological carrying capacity and cultural carrying capacity of
14 elk in Western Maryland; and

15 (2) on or before October 1, 2026, report its findings and recommendations
16 to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the
17 General Assembly on whether elk should be reintroduced in Western Maryland.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

