



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 23 October 2019  
To: The Honorable Representative from Delaware  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for House Bill 97

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for House Bill 97 which allows non-resident college students to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at resident costs. We implore you to support this vital piece of legislation that will have an extremely positive impact on hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation, also known as R3. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Hunters are the original conservationists. They contribute significant funds to conservation through license sales and excise taxes on hunting gear. Unfortunately, hunter numbers in Delaware have dwindled and with this, so has the funding for conservation that so many individuals rely upon within your state. Currently, 80% of the funding for state fish and wildlife agencies come from sportsmen and women. Additionally, according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, hunters in the state of Delaware help contribute \$150 million to the state's economy while supporting 1,868 jobs within the state. It is vital to encourage the preservation of the time-honored tradition of hunting through legislative measures like the one being proposed.

Often, a barrier for college students entering or continuing with this tradition is the cost of hunting licenses for non-residents while enrolled in college out-of-state. College has many expenses that can often put the opportunity to begin or continue hunting on the backburner. We must not allow the next generation of conservationists to lose this opportunity to continue furthering the hunting tradition that is so deeply engrained within the history of your state. House Bill 97 would preserve the opportunity to hunt by allowing non-resident college students to purchase hunting licenses at resident prices. This would encourage the flow of license fee dollars for the purpose of conservation in the state, that would otherwise be absent due to the inability for many college students to pay the steep non-resident prices. Other states around Delaware have adopted this approach with success such as, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. It is important that Delaware lawmakers take the lead and continue this momentum to ensure the continued existence of wildlife, habitat, and the hunting tradition. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration and dedicated service to the state of Delaware.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association