

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 365

(Delegate Glass)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

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This bill decreases the archery hunting safety zone size, in Harford County, from 150 yards to 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the “safety zone,” of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant. Also, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot at any animal while it is within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

For archery hunters in Carroll and Frederick counties, the safety zone extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any animal within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

**Background:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation State Overview Report*, issued in September 2012, found that over 37 million people spent time fishing and/or hunting, and wildlife-related recreation expenditures totaled \$145 billion nationally. In Maryland, it is estimated that every year over 88,000 hunters enjoy over 1 million days of hunting and contribute over \$264 million to the State's retail sales economy.

Over 8,000 people take the Maryland Hunter Education Course every year. However, hunting accidents do occur.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 833 of 2011, a similar bill, passed the House with amendments and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County, Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2013  
mc/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2013  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 16, 2013

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