

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 516

(Delegate Glass)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone**

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This bill decreases the size of the archery hunting safety zone in Harford County from 100 to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Harford County must use a tree stand when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local operations or finances in Harford County.

**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. For archery hunters in Harford and Montgomery counties, the safety zone extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a school during school hours or when a school-approved activity is taking place.

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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 387 of 2015, a similar bill, passed the House with amendments and the Senate with amendments; a conference committee was appointed, but the differences between the two chambers could not be reconciled before the conclusion of the 2015 legislative session. HB 673 of 2014, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2016  
md/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2016

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