

# HOUSE BILL 615

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones –**  
3 **Prince George's County**

4 **PG 402–21**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to  
6 hunt deer on certain Sundays of the deer hunting seasons in Prince George's County;  
7 ~~authorizing the Department to allow a person to hunt on public land designated for~~  
8 ~~hunting on Sunday in Prince George's County~~ adding Prince George's County to the  
9 list of counties in which the safety zone for archery hunters extends a certain  
10 distance from certain structures; making conforming changes; and generally relating  
11 to Sunday deer hunting and archery hunting safety zones in Prince George's County.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 10–410(a) and (g)(3)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 10–410(g)(1) and (2)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Natural Resources**

4 10–410.

5 (a) (1) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of the  
6 game bird and game mammal seasons in:

- 7 (i) Allegany County;
- 8 (ii) Cecil County;
- 9 (iii) Garrett County;
- 10 (iv) St. Mary’s County; and
- 11 (v) Washington County.

12 (2) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the  
13 deer hunting seasons from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in  
14 January, inclusive, in:

- 15 (i) Carroll County;
- 16 (ii) Dorchester County; [and]
- 17 (iii) Frederick County; AND
- 18 **(IV) PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.**

19 (3) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Department  
20 may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from 30  
21 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. in:

- 22 1. Kent County; and
- 23 2. Montgomery County.

24 (ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply:

- 25 1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under  
26 this subtitle;



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- 1 1. Calvert County;
- 2 2. Caroline County;
- 3 3. Charles County;
- 4 4. Harford County;
- 5 5. Queen Anne's County;
- 6 6. Somerset County;
- 7 7. Talbot County;
- 8 8. Wicomico County; and
- 9 9. Worcester County; and
- 10 (ii) The first Sunday in November in Anne Arundel County.

11 (6) The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of  
12 the spring turkey hunting season in:

- 13 (i) Calvert County;
- 14 (ii) Caroline County;
- 15 (iii) Carroll County;
- 16 (iv) Charles County;
- 17 (v) Dorchester County; and
- 18 (vi) Kent County.

19 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the Department  
20 may allow a person with a deer management permit to shoot deer on any Sunday  
21 throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the permit.

22 (8) The Department may allow a person using a State certified raptor to  
23 hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the game birds  
24 or mammals.

25 (9) The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in an  
26 organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

1 (10) The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared game birds  
2 or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated shooting ground  
3 in accordance with § 10-906 of this title.

4 (11) The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or younger to  
5 hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department in  
6 accordance with this subtitle.

7 (12) Except as provided in paragraphs (8) through (10) of this subsection and  
8 subject to paragraph (7) of this subsection, a person may not hunt on Sunday in:

- 9 (i) Baltimore City;
- 10 (ii) Baltimore County; **OR**
- 11 (iii) Howard County]; or
- 12 (iv) Prince George's County].

13 (13) A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

14 (14) A person may not hunt on public land within the State park system on  
15 Sunday.

16 (15) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public land  
17 designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

- 18 (i) Allegany County;
- 19 (ii) Cecil County;
- 20 (iii) Garrett County;
- 21 (iv) St. Mary's County;
- 22 (v) Washington County;
- 23 (vi) Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey hunting  
24 season; ~~and]~~

25 (vii) Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in October  
26 through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive; ~~AND~~

27 ~~(VIII) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.~~

1           (g)   (1)   Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a  
 2 person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may  
 3 not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the  
 4 “safety zone”, of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by  
 5 human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without  
 6 the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

7           (2)   A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or  
 8 discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school during school hours  
 9 or at a time when a school–approved activity is taking place.

10           (3)   (i)   For archery hunters in Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil  
 11 County, Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County, **PRINCE GEORGE’S**  
 12 **COUNTY**, St. Mary’s County, or Washington County, the safety zone described in  
 13 paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence,  
 14 church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

15                   (ii)   For archery hunters in Anne Arundel County, the safety zone  
 16 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house,  
 17 residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
 19 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.