

# SENATE BILL 96

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(PRE-FILED)

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CF 3lr1221

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By: **Senator Hester**

Requested: November 14, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone and Position of Archery**  
3 **Hunter**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the size of the safety zone for archery hunters in Howard  
5 County within which archery hunting may not take place except under certain  
6 circumstances; requiring an archery hunter in Howard County to be in an elevated  
7 position when hunting any wild bird or mammal within a certain distance of certain  
8 buildings; and generally relating to archery hunting in Howard County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 10–410(g)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 10–410.

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

24 (2) A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school during school hours  
2 or at a time when a school–approved activity is taking place.

3 (3) (i) For archery hunters in Allegany County, Calvert County, Carroll  
4 County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, **HOWARD**  
5 **COUNTY**, Montgomery County, St. Mary’s County, or Washington County, the safety zone  
6 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house,  
7 residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

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

11 (4) During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or  
12 occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any wild bird or mammal within the safety zone  
13 without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

14 (5) In Harford County, an archery hunter shall use a tree stand when  
15 hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence,  
16 church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

17 (6) In **HOWARD COUNTY**, Montgomery County, or Washington County,  
18 an archery hunter shall be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a  
19 downward trajectory when hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a  
20 dwelling house, residence, church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp  
21 occupied by human beings.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2023.