

# **Support of HB 51 - Talbot County – Deer and Turkey**

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: FAV



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 11, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

## **Re: Support of HB 51 - Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays**

On behalf of our member families in Talbot County, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 51, legislation that allows hunters in Talbot County to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January. This would add Talbot to a list of counties that consists of Carroll, Dorchester, and Frederick County. The bill also allows hunters in Talbot County to hunt on each Sunday during the spring Turkey season. This adds Talbot to a list of counties that consists of Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, and Kent County.

Crop damage created by deer is nearly \$50 per acre today. These numbers are even higher on the Eastern Shore. DNR reports show that more than 10% of the deer harvested this hunting season were done on Sundays. Opening Talbot County to have these additional Sunday hunting dates will allow the hunters to help address the overpopulation of deer in Talbot County.

**MDFB Policy:** We support statewide Sunday hunting on private lands.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 51 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

*For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396*

# **HB51 Delegation Vote Tally.pdf**

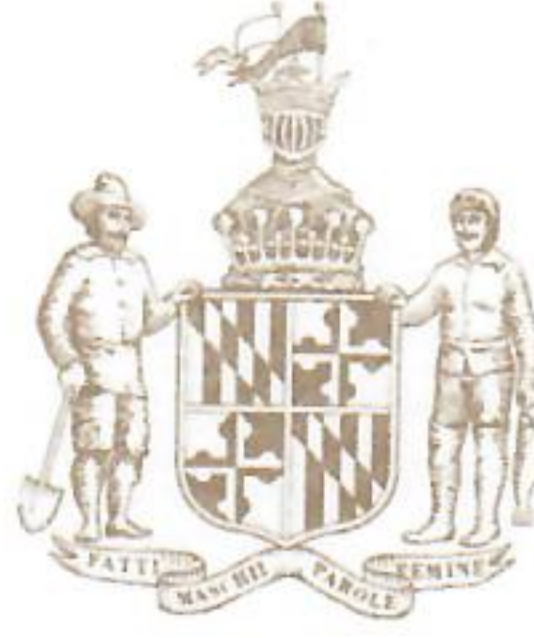
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**JOHNNY MAUTZ**  
Legislative District 37B  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



**TO:** Kumar Barve, Chairman House Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Johnny Mautz, Chairman, Talbot County Delegation

Below is a summary of our delegation vote in support of **HB51 – Talbot County—Deer and Turkey hunting--Sundays**

We request your support in advancing this legislation through the committee process. Please feel free to contact our office at [johnny.mautz@house.state.md.us](mailto:johnny.mautz@house.state.md.us) or ext. 3429 for additional information.

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Name	Yeah	Nay	Date
Delegate Mautz			3/4/22
Delegate Adams			3/4/22



# **HB51 Sponsor Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: FAV

**JOHNNY MAUTZ**  
*Legislative District 37B*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

March 11, 2022

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**  
**DELEGATE JOHNNY MAUTZ**  
**DIST. 37B – CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, TALBOT & WICOMICO COUNTIES**

**HB51—TALBOT COUNTY—DEER AND TURKEY HUNTING--SUNDAYS**

**Introduction**

HB51 would authorize Sunday hunting on private land in Talbot County for deer hunting season and turkey hunting season.

**Background**

There is a disparity among Sunday hunting among adjacent counties. Sunday hunting is already permitted for several Sundays in Talbot, this legislation would provide additional days. This legislation is also supported by Talbot County Council.

*This legislation was approved by the Environment and Transportation Committee in 2021.*

**Rational**

Sunday hunting is widely supported among hunters and landowners. In addition, the additional days provided by this legislation are limited to private land.

**Conclusion**

We urge a **favorable report for HB51** and appreciate your consideration.

# **Hunting\_Seasons\_Calendar.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: FAV

# Maryland Hunting Seasons Calendar for 2021-2022

Species, Season, & Region	August	September	2021 October	November	December	January	February	March	2022 April	May	June	July
White-tailed Deer, Antlered, Archery <sup>1</sup>		9/10-10/20	10/24-11/26		12/13-12/17	1/2-1/6 1/10-1/31	Archery also open Jan. 7-9 in Region A only.					
White-tailed Deer, Antlered, Firearms <sup>1</sup>					11/27-12/11	1/7-1/9	Firearms open Jan. 7-9 in Region B only.					
White-tailed Deer, Antlered, Muzzleloader <sup>1</sup>			10/21-10/23		12/18-1/1							
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Archery, Region A <sup>1,2</sup>		9/10-10/20	10/24-11/26		12/13-12/17	1/2-1/31						
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Firearms, Region A <sup>2</sup>					12/10-12/11	Only Dec. 11 on DNR Public Lands.						
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Muzzleloader, Region A <sup>2</sup>			10/21-10/23		12/30-1/1	Only Jan. 1 on DNR Public Lands.						
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Archery, Region B <sup>1,3</sup>		9/10-10/20	10/24-11/26		12/13-12/17	1/2-1/6 1/10-1/31						
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Firearms, Region B <sup>1,3</sup>					11/27-12/11	1/7-1/9						
White-tailed Deer, Antlerless Muzzleloader, Region B <sup>1,3</sup>			10/21-10/23 10/25-10/30		12/18-1/1							
Sika Deer, Archery <sup>1,4</sup>		9/10-10/20	10/24-11/26		12/13-12/17	1/2-1/6 1/10-1/31						
Sika Deer, Firearms <sup>1,4</sup>					11/27-12/11	1/7-1/9						
Sika Deer, Muzzleloader <sup>1,4</sup>			10/21-10/23		12/18-1/1							
Sika Deer, Antlerless, Region B Only, Muzzleloader			10/25-10/30									
Junior Deer Hunt Days <sup>1</sup>				11/13-11/14								
Primitive Deer Hunt Days <sup>1,5</sup>							2/1-2/3					
Wild Turkey, Winter Season <sup>6</sup>						1/20-1/22						
Wild Turkey, Fall Season <sup>6</sup>			10/30-11/7									
Wild Turkey, Spring Season <sup>6</sup>								4/18-5/23				
Wild Turkey, Spring Season, Junior Hunt Days <sup>6</sup>								4/16-4/17				
Canada Goose, Early Resident Season, Eastern Hunt Zone <sup>7</sup>		9/1-9/15										
Canada Goose, Early Resident Season, Western Hunt Zone <sup>8</sup>		9/1-9/25										
Canada Goose, Migratory Atlantic Population <sup>9</sup>					12/17-1/1	1/13-1/31						
Canada Goose, Late Resident Season <sup>10</sup>				11/20-11/26	12/15-----3/10							
Light Geese			10/1-----11/26		12/13-----1/31		2/5					
Light Goose Conservation Order Season <sup>11</sup>					11/29-12/11		2/1-2/4	2/7-----4/15				
Brant				11/17-11/26	12/15-1/31							
Teal, September Season <sup>12</sup>		9/16-9/30										
Ducks, Eastern Zone			10/16-10/23	11/13-11/26	12/15-----1/31							
Ducks, Western Zone			10/2-10/16	11/20-11/26	12/15-----1/31							
Sea Ducks, Special Sea Duck Zone				10/30-----1/7								
Waterfowl- Youth, Veteran & Military Hunt Days				11/6			2/5					
Mourning Doves		9/1-----10/16	10/23-11/26		12/17-1/8							
Rails		9/1-----11/20										
Woodcock			10/20-11/26			1/10-1/22						
Common Snipe		9/29-----1/31										
Black Bear <sup>13</sup>			10/25-10/29									
Squirrel <sup>14</sup>		9/4-----2/28										
Rabbit				11/6-----2/28								
Quail, Eastern Region <sup>15</sup>				11/6-----2/15								
Quail, Western Region <sup>16</sup>				11/6-----1/15								
Quail, DNR Lands <sup>17</sup>			11/6-12/15									
Pheasant				11/6-----2/28								
Ruffed Grouse			10/2-----1/31									
Crow	8/15----- Wednesday through Saturday only -----3/15											



# Maryland Hunting Seasons Calendar for 2021-2022

-continued-

Beaver, Trapping <sup>18</sup>					12/15-----3/15				
Beaver, Trapping <sup>19</sup>					12/1-----3/15				
Coyote, Hunting	Year-round								
Coyote & Long-tailed Weasel Trapping, Eastern Region <sup>20</sup>					11/15-----2/15				
Coyote & Long-tailed Weasel Trapping, Western Region <sup>21</sup>					11/1-----2/1				
Fisher					11/1-----2/1				
Fox, Hunting & Trapping, Charles & Dorchester Co.	Year-round								
Fox, Hunting & Trapping County Group 1 <sup>22</sup>					11/15-----2/15				
Fox, Hunting & Trapping County Group 2 <sup>23</sup>					11/1-----2/1				
Muskrat & Mink, County Group A <sup>24</sup>					11/15-----2/15				
Muskrat & Mink, County Group B <sup>25</sup>					1/1-----3/15				
Muskrat & Mink, County Group C <sup>26</sup>					12/15-----3/15				
Nutria & Groundhog	Year-round								
River Otter, Trapping County Group 1 <sup>27</sup>					12/15-----3/15				
River Otter, Trapping County Group 2 <sup>28</sup>					12/15-----3/15				
River Otter, Trapping County Group 3 <sup>29</sup>					12/1-----3/15				
Raccoon & Opossum, Chasing Only	8/2-----10/14							3/16-----7/30	
Raccoon & Opossum Hunting					10/15-----3/15				
Raccoon, Skunk & Opossum Trapping, Eastern Region <sup>20</sup>					11/15-----3/15				
Raccoon, Skunk & Opossum Trapping, Western Region <sup>21</sup>					11/1-----3/15				
Skunk, Hunting					11/1-----3/15				



## Footnotes for 2021-2022 Hunting Season Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, hunting seasons are for all Maryland counties. Not all species are found in all counties.

### 1 Sunday Deer Hunting (white-tailed and sika)-

White-tailed and sika deer hunting seasons include Sundays - see the Sunday hunting portion of the calendar for areas, dates, counties and times.

**2 Deer Management Region A-** This region includes Allegany County, Garrett County, and the western portion of Washington County (Zone 2, Private Land Code Areas 250 & 251) that lies west of a line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 494 and the Pennsylvania line, south on Rt. 494 to Rt. 57, south on Rt. 57 to Rt. 40 at St. Paul's Church, west on Rt. 40 to the junction of Big Spring Rd. and Rt. 40 in Clear Spring, south on Big Spring Rd. to the junction of Rt. 56 at Big Spring, following Rt. 56 west to the junction of Charles Mill Rd., then south on Charles Mill Rd. to the Potomac River.

**3 Deer Management Region B-** This region includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1, Private Land Code Area 252: the eastern portion of Washington County that lies east of a line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 494 and the Pennsylvania line, south on Rt. 494 to Rt. 57, south on Rt. 57 to Rt. 40 at St. Paul's Church, west on Rt. 40 to the junction of Big Spring Rd. and Rt. 40 in Clear Spring, south on Big Spring Rd. to the junction of Rt. 56 at Big Spring, following Rt. 56 west to the junction of Charles Mill Rd., then south on Charles Mill Rd. to the Potomac River), Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

**4 Sika Deer-** Sika deer may be hunted statewide where they are found.

**5 Primitive Deer Hunt Days-** Hunters may only use long bows, recurve bows or flintlock and sidelock percussion muzzleloading rifles or handguns during these days.

### 6 Wild Turkey-

**The Spring Season** is open statewide. Daily shooting hours for April 18 through May 9 are one-half hour before sunrise to noon. Daily shooting hours for May 10 through May 23 are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

**The Fall Season** hunting area includes Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties only.

**The Winter Season** is open statewide.

**The Junior Turkey Hunt Season** is open statewide on Saturday, April 16, 2022 in all counties and Sunday, April 17, 2022 in certain counties (see below).

**Sunday turkey hunting is permitted on all Sundays during any open turkey season in:**

- Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles and Kent counties on private lands only.
- Dorchester County on public and private lands.
- Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington counties on private and designated public lands only.

**7 Canada Goose, Early Resident Season, Eastern Hunt Zone-** This zone includes Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301.

**8 Canada Goose, Early Resident Season, Western Hunt Zone-** This zone includes Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301.

**9 Canada Goose, Migratory Atlantic Population-** This zone includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301.

**10 Canada Goose, Late Resident Goose Hunt Zone-** This zone includes Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery and Washington Counties; that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97

to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 30; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301.

**11 Light Goose Conservation Season Zone-** This zone includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301.

**12 September Teal Hunt Zone:** This zone includes Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince Georges County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301.

**13 Bear Hunt Zone-** This zone includes Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties. Permit required.

#### **14 Closed Season for Delmarva Fox Squirrel**

**15 Quail, Eastern Region-** This region includes private lands east of I-83 from Pennsylvania south to I-695 to I-95 south to Virginia.

**16 Quail, Western Region-** This region includes private lands west of I-83 from Pennsylvania south to I-695 to I-95 south to Virginia, excluding Allegany and Garrett counties.

**17 Quail-** Lands owned or managed by DNR excluding Allegany and Garrett counties.

**18-** All counties except Garrett and Allegany.

**19-** Garrett and Allegany counties.

**20** That portion of Maryland east of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River.

**21** That portion of Maryland west of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River.

**22 Fox, County Group 1-** This group includes Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

**23 Fox, County Group 2-** This group includes Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Washington counties.

**24 Muskrat and Mink, County Group A-** This group includes Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties.

**25 Muskrat and Mink, County Group B-** This group includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot and Wicomico counties.

**26 Muskrat and Mink, County Group C-** This group includes Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties.

**27 River Otter, County Group 1-** All counties except Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington.

**28 River Otter, County Group 2-** Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties.

**29 River Otter, County Group 3-** Allegany and Garrett counties.

**SUNDAY DEER HUNTING 2021-2022 (FOR WHITE-TAILED AND SIKA DEER)**  
**Sunday hunting is allowed only on these dates and time restrictions during these seasons.**

COUNTY	Lands Open	Archery Season																Firearms Season				Muzzleloader Season	
		Sept. 12	Sept.19	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30	Nov. 14 (Jr. Hunt)	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Jan. 9	Dec. 19	Dec. 26
ALLEGANY	Private & Designated Public <sup>1</sup>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
ANNE ARUNDEL	Private Only									Open								Open	Open				
BALTIMORE	None																						
CALVERT	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
CAROLINE	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
CARROLL	Private Only				Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
CECIL	Private & Designated Public <sup>1</sup>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
CHARLES	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
DORCHESTER	Private Only				Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
FREDERICK	Private Only				Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
GARRETT	Private & Designated Public <sup>1</sup>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
HARFORD	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
HOWARD	None																						
KENT	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open
MONTGOMERY	Private Only	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>		Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>
PRINCE GEORGE'S	None																						
QUEEN ANNE'S	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
ST. MARY'S	Private & Designated Public <sup>1</sup>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
SOMERSET	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		
TALBOT	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open				
WASHINGTON REGION A	Private & Designated Public <sup>1</sup>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
WASHINGTON REGION B	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
WICOMICO	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>			
WORCESTER	Private Only						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Open	Open	Open	Open		

<sup>1</sup>Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Marys' and Washington counties are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Earlville WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Grove Farm WMA, Indian Springs WMA, McCoole FMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Old Bohemia WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Saint Inigoes SF, Salem SF, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA and Warrior Mountain WMA.

<sup>2</sup>Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent, Montgomery and Wicomico counties where footnoted).

**HB 51\_mgoldstein\_fav 2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV





Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

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March 09, 2022

### **HB 51 - SUPPORT**

Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Maryland bans, or otherwise limits, the sale of automobiles and other vehicles (Business Regulation Code Ann. §18–101), and the sale of alcohol (Alcoholic Beverages Code Ann. §11–102), on Sundays. Financial institutions must be closed on Sunday (Financial Institutions Code Ann. §5–704). Maryland is one of eleven states where hunting is still banned or otherwise restricted on Sunday (Natural Resources Code Ann. §10-410). Counties (and Baltimore) have requested, and usually obtained, a variety of exemptions from some of these Sunday activity restrictions from the General Assembly. Secular Maryland supports these requests to reduce or eliminate Sunday activity restrictions. We disagree with the state level Sunday activity restrictions.

Sunday is a special day of the week for many Christians. For other citizens the day of rest and worship may be Friday or Saturday, and for some citizens there is no god to worship or no fixed day of rest each week. Maryland law can be, and should be, more accommodating to this diversity of belief among its citizens. Legally banning business and leisure activity on Sundays favors a majority religious practice. Favoring a majority religious practice is not a proper goal of the laws. To the fullest extent feasible, our laws should accommodate minority religious practices along with non-religious and anti-religion beliefs.

The decisions regarding which day to hunt, to buy or sell alcohol, to buy or sell vehicles, to initiate and process financial transactions, etc., are best left to the citizens. State lawmakers can require one day off every week without specifying a particular day of the week by delegating that decision to the affected businesses. Hunting restrictions to accommodate horseback riding, hiking, and the like during the hunting season can be defined for particular hours throughout the week or rotated to different days for each week of the month instead of being on every Sunday.

Respectfully,

Mathew Goldstein  
3838 Early Glow Ln  
Bowie, MD

**Letter on SB 658 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Moynihan

Position: FAV

Comments\Testimony in support of HB1103 and SB 658

Legislation for the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to request your support on this important piece of legislation (HB1103 and SB 658), legislation for the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission.

As a resident of Columbia, MD I want you to know how disruptive the current operation of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) is to day-to-day life here. The introduction of the NEXT GEN arrival and departure flight patterns over the last few years have only heightened the unsettling noise.

The proposed legislation would allow the citizens more of an opportunity to become directly aware of and comment on proposed changes in the future. This would hopefully avert problems like those that resulted from the NEXT GEN implementation.

As a resident who is daily impacted by the flight operations at BWI, I am asking you to please support this legislation which would provide at least some avenue of protection and oversight to any future changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert G. Moynihan

9825 Davidge Drive

Columbia, ND 21044

Senate Finance (in support of SB658/HB1103)

Senator Delores Kelley: [delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us](mailto:delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us)

Senator Brian J. Feldman: [brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us](mailto:brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us)

House Appropriations (in support of SB658/HB1103)

Delegate Maggie McIntosh: [maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us](mailto:maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Mark S. Chang: [mark.chang@house.state.md.us](mailto:mark.chang@house.state.md.us)

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**hunting accident report 2007-2021.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

# Excerpts from 15 years of DNR's Annual Hunting Accident Reports

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/pages/hunting-incident-reports.aspx>

## 2021

— A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No charges were filed against the shooter.

## 2020

--- A Frederick County resident observed damage to the exterior of their residence, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. While investigating officers located no hunting activity in the area, the incident did occur during the end of spring turkey season. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County resident observed damage to their vehicle's windshield, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting and there were reports of numerous shots leading up to the incident. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County waterfowl hunter, returning from a hunt, observed damage to their parked vehicle's tailgate, which consisted of a rifle round lodged into the plastic molding of said tailgate. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A 17 year-old Wicomico County Waterfowl Hunter was underway in a vessel with other hunters when they were struck with shotgun pellets. Investigation revealed that other members of the victim's hunting party were on shore and approximately 50-60 yards away when a 20 year-old fired a shot towards the victim's vessel in an alleged attempt to scare him and his hunting party. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries. Natural resources / criminal charges were filed against the shooter in this incident.

— A 14 year-old Somerset County Turkey Hunter (Firearms - Junior Hunt Days) was on foot and stalking turkeys with other juvenile hunters and under adult supervision. As the juveniles were walking 50-70 yards apart, under thick tree cover and out of sight from one another, a 14-year old shooter observed a turkey and fired their shotgun twice at said game. As a result, shotgun pellets ultimately struck the victim. The shooter was not aware that the victim was in the background. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

## 2019

---- A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing

their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

--- An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

---- A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage.

## 2018

No relevant reports

## 2017

--- A 26 year old Talbot County deer hunter (firearms season) shot at two deer with 12 gauge shotgun slugs. The first deer was struck and ran 40 yards before collapsing, the second deer was shot at but the first slug went over its back, the second shot dropped the deer in the location where it was standing. Apparently the slug that missed struck an occupied residence just to one side of the front door. Upon a 911 call a sheriff's department deputy had searched and located the lone hunter. After an investigation by NRP the hunter was charged with negligent hunting and discharging a firearm within the safety zone. Property damage only

--- An unknown Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) sent a 7mm projectile through the side of a residence, through the bedroom wall, through a wooden dresser, then through a closet wall before coming to rest in a pile of towels in the closet. Two people were in the bedroom at the time but neither was injured. A search of nearby farms was unsuccessful in locating any hunter(s). Property damage only

--- A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (late firearms season) took two shots at a deer with a 30/30 rifle toward the direction of a neighboring farm. One of the shots (both of which missed the deer) struck a dining room window of the adjacent residence and stopped, being found on the windowsill. During the investigation it was determined that the round that struck the window had ricocheted off of the ground. The distance from the shooter to the house was 398 yards.

(DNR's on-line annual report for 2017 is identical to DNR'S 2016's report – the 2016 appears to be missing)

## 2015

--- A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey. Non-Fatal

## 2014

--- A 50 year old Carroll County Fox Hunter sent a 6mm rifle round through a patio glass door. The round went through a vinyl garden hose and a plastic lawn chair before going through the door and striking a kitchen chair. The homeowner was the only occupant in the residence at the time and they were in bed sleeping.

--- A 52 year old Kent County Turkey Hunter (Spring Season) took two shots at a gobbler out in an open field. The second shot was at the bird while in flight. One pellet struck the storm door of an adjacent house causing the glass to shatter. The homeowner was present in the home at the time.

## 2013

--- A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit

--- A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles.

--- A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone ---discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandelier in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

--- A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away. Property Damage Only

--- A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game)

## 2012

--- A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

--- A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the homeowner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation.

## 2011

--- A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard. Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

--- A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass.

--- A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

--- A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys 40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodged in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a redmark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

## 2010

--- During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that



day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

--- A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.

--- A 53 year old Howard County deer hunter was shot by his 36 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a standing deer with a .12 gauge slug in an open field at approximately 243 yards. The bullet missed the deer, striking the victim sitting in a wooden ground blind at the opposite end of the field. The victim received injuries to his right arm and hand. Non Fatal. Charges pending an investigation

--- A 46 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunting was shot by his 25 year old hunting companion. With both subjects participating in a deer drive, the shooter shot at a running deer twice with a .20 gauge shotgun slug. A slug traveled 70 yards, striking the victim positioned at the opposite end of the field in the left leg. Non Fatal. Negligent Hunting charges pending.

--- A 55 year old Dorchester County rabbit hunter was shot by his 55 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a running rabbit with a .20 gauge shotgun in a thicket. The shot pellets traveled approximately 30 to 40 feet through the thicket striking the victim. The victim received injuries to the right side of his head, neck, eye, arm and left

--- A Frederick County garage window was struck by a bullet from an unknown source. An investigation could not recover the projectile nor related evidence. This incident occurred during the firearm's deer season.

## 2009

--- A 57 year-old goose hunter in Kent County was shot by another hunter while attempting to retrieve a wounded goose. The victim received a minor wound to the face from a shotgun pellet which deflected off the water striking the victim.

--- A window was broken at an occupied daycare facility from a slug fired by a shotgun in Howard County. Several hunters were found in the area and interviewed by several police agencies. Negligent hunting charges were filed, but the States Attorney elected not to prosecute due to insufficient evidence.

--- A window in a house was struck and broken by a sabot round fired by a deer hunter in Talbot County. The investigation found that in this case , the hunter was not negligent and charges were not filed.

--- While checking vacant buildings, several Frederick County Sheriff Deputy vehicles were struck by shot gun pellets causing minor damage. Several individuals who were hunting quail in the area were located and charges were filed by the States Attorney's office for Reckless Endangerment.

--- A 69 year-old deer hunter in Dorchester County found himself in the middle of a deer drive on a wildlife refuge. After hearing several shots the hunter realized that his shotgun had been struck on the barrel and magazine by lead shot. The shooter was never found or located.

## 2008

— A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

— A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

— A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

## 2007

— A 51 year-old Caroline County quail hunter shot his hunting partner when a quail flew between them. The victim received 4 pellets to his upper body.

— A 54 year-old Talbot County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them and the shooter shot at the deer. The shooter hit the deer and shrapnel from the slug hit the victim in the hand causing minor injuries.

— A 59 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them. The victim was below field level, climbing a hill out of site of the shooter. He received neck injuries.

— A 38 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the shoulder by his 16 year-old hunting partner when the victim was moving through bushes and mistaken for game. Victim was not wearing fluorescent orange.

— A 64 year-old Charles County Turkey hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the victim started to retrieve a turkey and was mistaken for another turkey by the shooter. Victim received 4 pellet wounds to various parts of the body.

## INCIDENTS -- NOT REPORTED IN DNR ACCIDENT REPORTS (2016 to present)– that were recorded in other news sources:

### **--- MD: Woman attempting to shoot groundhog accidentally hits man fishing at park**

May 28, 2019

The Maryland Natural Resource Police are investigating an incident of a bullet that grazed a man in the shoulder on Sunday afternoon.

According to police, a 61-year-old woman was shooting a groundhog in her backyard, which borders the Smithsburg Lions Community Park.

The woman missed and the bullet ricocheted across the water and struck a 28-year-old man who was fishing.

Officials said there doesn't seem to be any issues with limitation, however the shooter is responsible for anything in background, like in this case, the park....

--- Fatality : Maryland Natural Resources police were investigating a fatal hunting accident in Frederick County on Saturday, the opening day of deer season for firearms. Police said the rifle of a first-time hunter from Altadena, Calif., was accidentally discharged while he was deer hunting on private property on Eylers Valley Flint Road near Thurmont. Police identified the victim as Vincent Cavallo, 32.

Cavallo and his uncle were hunting in separate areas of the property when the uncle heard a gunshot. He went to check on his nephew and found him dead, DNR police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said. Police were called to the scene at 9:24 a.m.

Police said the victim is believed to have slipped or dropped the gun and it discharged, hitting him in the head. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Natural Resources police were assisted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department in the investigation.

[lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com](mailto:lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com)

--- Author: Scott Broom

Published: 6:07 PM EDT October 24, 2016

The mystery is still not solved after an 87-year old man was apparently struck (ed. note: in the head) by a shotgun pellet or bullet fragment while walking on his property in rural Montgomery County Saturday. Authorities suspect a hunting accident, but they don't know who fired the shot or from where. Residents and hunters say they are deeply concerned by the incident. The victim's property is on the boundary of the Patuxent River State Park where hunting with firearms is permitted. Hunters may not fire guns within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling without a residents' permission, even if the hunter is on another property or public land nearby. Maryland averages 2-3 hunting accidents involving firearms annually. The victim is almost always a hunter.

NOTE: see more of this episode at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html)

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wusa9.com/amp/article/news/local/mystery-surrounds-shooting-of-elderly-md-man-walking-home/65-340868641>

--- Fatality: Oct 11, 2015 - WASHINGTON — A 75-year-old huntsman was fatally *shot during* a hunting trip Saturday in Queen Anne's County, ... *Marvin Bowen Coppage*, a resident of *Henderson*, was hired to lead a guided *pheasant and chukar* hunt.

--- 2014 A mountain biker was peppered by bird shot while riding his bike in the Tuckahoe State Park on Maryland's Eastern (related by Tuckahoe park staff) knowledge)

Citizen report:

Date: March 15, 2019 at 9:15:38 AM EDT

To: <mwc.dnr@maryland.gov>, <animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov>, <hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Hunting Violation in Western Howard County

Hello,

I want to report a hunting violation that I encountered yesterday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Woodbine parcel of the Patuxent State Park.

I was in the park on horseback and one or two people began shooting firearms near the trail head that is immediately north of the farm at 4505 Jennings Chapel Road.

I hollered several times so that they could hear that I was there and stop shooting long enough for me to get out of the park. They were shooting between me and the closest way out of the park so my way was totally blocked.

They did not stop shooting even as I hollered and eventually my very sane and experienced horse bolted to try to get away from the noise, which was echoing everywhere.

Luckily I am a strong rider and I did not have a mishap but my horse was badly frightened, as was I, frankly. It was mainly luck that we did not run into a tree or barbed wire or worse.

Once I finally got to the trail head – after picking my way along as close to the edge of the park as I possibly could on the theory they would not fire towards residences – I saw their vehicles and got their license plates. They were both Maryland vehicles, one was 5CC8856 and the other was 5C74853.

I have attached photographs of the vehicles. I also have a photograph of my riding attire yesterday, which included a safety orange saddle pad and a reflective yellow jacket, which I can provide if necessary.

I have been riding in this part of the park for over 15 years and every time I have encountered hunters we have been courteous to one another and respectful of each other's sport and mindful of each other's safety. These people were obviously an exception.

I am happy to discuss further by telephone if necessary.

**testimony - Sunday hunting Talbot 2022 - House.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF





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**HORSE**  
COUNCIL

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*One Common Bond: The Horse*  
*One Common Voice: The Horse Council*

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 51 - Talbot County -  
Deer and Turkey Hunting - Sundays: OPPOSE

- ❖ **A majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting.** An independent statewide poll conducted by Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting. Even DNR's own 2018 commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **This bill would expand hunting in Talbot from only seven Sundays to every Sunday October, November, December and half of January, plus an additional five Sundays in April and May.**
- ❖ **This bill would infringe on the rights of the general public to enjoy outdoor recreation, the importance of which has received increased attention, including the State Park Investment Commission, a new Office of Outdoor Recreation in DNR, and the introduction of SB 541, the Great Maryland Outdoors Act. 78% of the Gonzales poll respondents said they would decide to alter their recreational plans to avoid hunters. In a Maryland Horse Council 2016 poll, 85% of respondents said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.**
- ❖ **Since the advent of the pandemic, widespread use of outdoor recreation and natural resources by the general public has only increased.** For example, attendance at Maryland State Parks in 2020 increased 45% over 2019, which was also a record year.<sup>2</sup> Demand remained strong through 2021. **Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, including the distinctions between private and public lands. Now is not the time to increase general public exposure to possible hunting risks, or to further deter the public from outdoor recreation. We have**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018\\_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/02/04/lt-governor-boyd-k-rutherford-maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announce-45-percent-increase-in-maryland-state-parks-attendance-in-2020/>

separately submitted with this testimony a report of hunting incidents from 2007 - 2021, compiled from DNR's own data.

- ❖ **The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has recently begun to conclude that the deer population in Maryland has stabilized, and additional deer reduction measures are not needed and even contraindicated.** The deer population in Maryland has declined from a high of almost 300,000 in 2002 to just over 200,000. DNR has reduced bag limits (i.e., the number of deer allowed to be taken), implicitly acknowledging that reducing the deer population is not a priority. **In a February 2022 press release, DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto stated “the deer population is trending toward a population level that reduces damage to agriculture and minimizes impacts on our natural communities.”** Nevertheless, according to DNR's recent survey, hunters want to see the deer population maintained or increased.
- ❖ **We agree that deer can present health, public safety and economic problems in Maryland. However, Sunday hunting is demonstrably not an effective solution to that problem. For example, in all but one of the five Maryland counties that vastly expanded Sunday hunting, the deer harvest has fallen. (See footnote 6)**
- ❖ Therefore, **Sunday hunting is not an effective deer management tool; it is rather a hunter convenience tool.** Convenience is surely a benefit, but it is a benefit that should be available to all constituents equitably, not just one small segment. The number of licensed hunters in Maryland, about 100,000, is less than 2% of the state's population of about 6 million.
- ❖ **The Maryland horse industry represents \$2.1 billion in economic impact;** 28,000 jobs; \$1 billion in annual spending by participants; \$78 million in tax revenue. Over \$73 million in infrastructure improvements to public and private facilities around the state. There are over 100,000 horses in Maryland (more per square mile than any state in the Union), and 51.8% of Maryland households contain horse enthusiasts.<sup>3</sup> There are horses in every county in the state.<sup>4</sup> The majority of Maryland riders are trail riders.<sup>5</sup>

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes breed, interest and discipline associations, plus horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses and race tracks, to the owners of international level competition horses, local sport horses, trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. The owner of Pimlico, Laurel and Rosecroft racetracks is a member, as are vets, tack stores, and other farms, businesses and enthusiasts

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<sup>3</sup> See attached fact sheet.

<sup>4</sup> According to the 2010 Maryland Equine Census (current numbers are likely about 25% higher, based on current total statewide population): Allegany 350; Baltimore 8950; Carroll 6050; Frederick 7850; Garrett 1500; Harford 6200; Howard 4350; Montgomery 7900; Washington 3750; Anne Arundel 4500; Calvert 1350; Charles 1750; Prince George's 7100; Saint Mary's 2300; Caroline 1300; Cecil 6200; Kent 1200; Queen Anne's 1700; Talbot 1500; Dorchester 350; Somerset 270; Wicomico 1800; Worcester 880

<sup>5</sup> <http://equiery.com/trail-riding-tops-reader-survey/>

throughout the state. As such, we stand for over 30,000 Marylanders. Every Maryland county, without exception, is home to hundreds to thousands of horses. (See footnote 4) There are more horse per square mile in Maryland than in any state in the Union. (See attached fact sheet.)

The horse industry in Maryland is a large, engaged and thriving constituency, and a strong economic engine: 28,000 direct equine related jobs; 16,000 properties occupying over 705,000 acres (almost 10% of Maryland's total land area, and over 25% of Maryland's agricultural land) The industry represents \$2.1 billion in annual economic impact, generating \$78 million in annual tax revenue. Horse industry participants spend \$1 billion dollars annually (compare that to the \$260 million annual figure for hunters cited in the Fiscal and Policy Note).. Thus, legislative actions that affect the equine industry have a broad economic effect.

#### POSITION

The Horse Council opposes HB 51.

#### BACKGROUND

For over 20 years, the Maryland Horse Council has worked to ensure fair use of shared natural resources during hunting seasons, by seeking to preserve Sundays as the one day of the week when children and adults who are hikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, trail riders and other outdoor enthusiasts could enjoy the outdoors without concern for adverse interactions with hunters. Almost 20 years ago, we helped defeat a number of statewide Sunday hunting bills. Proponents of Sunday hunting then changed tactics, seeking to introduce Sunday hunting on a county-by-county basis, which we also opposed vigorously. Sometimes they were successful; sometimes not. When they were successful, they succeeded in making an already complicated situation more complicated, making it more difficult for others to plan their outings, and for Natural Resources Police to effectively crack down on poachers and irresponsible hunters, which has caused even more negative encounters between irresponsible hunters and other users.<sup>6</sup>

The Maryland Horse Council has proposed reasonable compromises that would still allow fair use of shared natural resources, by cutting off Sunday hunting, where allowed, at 10:30 am. This compromise still gives hunters, trail riders and others plenty of Sunday access to opportunities. This compromise has been embraced by some legislators, who have praised the Horse Council for this reasonable approach, and it has been adopted by Montgomery, Kent and Wicomico Counties. Now we are facing a bill that would add more days of all day Sunday hunting in Talbot County. This bill does nothing to improve the situation for Natural Resources Police and continues to infringe on the fair rights of other users of our shared natural resources in Maryland.

The issue of recreational Sunday hunting is certainly a fraught one. In a November 2018 independent Gonzales statewide poll, the vast majority of respondents opposed Sunday hunting:

**SUNDAY HUNTING** Oppose 68.9%; Favor 21.9%

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<sup>6</sup> In a 2016 Maryland Horse Council survey, 35% of respondents reported "adverse incidents" with hunters while trail riding, ranging from rudeness to deliberate attempts to spook horses, threatening with firearms, and firing of "warning" shots. Significant percentages of DNR's survey respondents also reported problems when encountering hunters.

Breakdown:

Strongly Favor 13.5%

Somewhat Favor 8.4%

Somewhat Oppose 15.4%

Strongly Oppose 53.5%

These majorities opposed to Sunday hunting are true in Baltimore Metro, Washington Metro AND Rural areas. Rural Maryland opposed Sunday hunting 60.5% vs 34.1% in favor. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded. (See footnote 1.) This bill directly contravenes that clear public opinion.

It is important to make clear that the Horse Council is not opposed to hunting. Many of our members are hunters of deer, other game mammals and game birds. We just want to ensure that everyone has a safe option for enjoyment of the outdoors, especially in this time of COVID. The COVID pandemic has dramatically increased the level of outdoor activity and use of natural resources. According to DNR, 2020 State Park attendance increased by 45% to 21.5 million visitors. 2021 demand remained strong. ***Lt. Governor Rutherford stated: "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live, work, and play, more and more Marylanders are finding affordable, socially-distant, and family-friendly recreation opportunities at our parks and public lands,"*** (See footnote 2.) Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, and are unaware that they may encounter hunters in the woods. Now is not the time to roll the dice and increase the chances of potential adverse interactions between hunters and members of the public who are relatively new to the outdoors. We have separately submitted with this testimony an 8 page report, culled from DNR's own data, of hunting accidents.

Through our years of studying DNR data, we are unconvinced that recreational hunting is the best solution for managing the deer herd. These data reveal that despite expansion of Sunday hunting in some other jurisdictions, deer harvest numbers are dropping. (And given the widely acknowledged "ghost doe" problem (i.e., some hunters phone in false reports of the number of does harvested, in order to become eligible to shoot a trophy buck), those numbers may actually be artificially inflated.) We have looked at DNR harvest numbers in the five counties that have had a large number of Sunday hunting days added in recent years. In all but one of the counties, the harvest numbers declined substantially after Sundays were added.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Allegany - An increase of from 6 to 13 Sundays from 2013 to 2016. Harvest decline. **In 2013-2014, the total harvest was 3636** (with 5 Archery ("A") and 1 Firearms ("FA") Sundays); in 2014-2015, the total harvest was 3051 (5A, 3FA, 1 Junior ("J"), and 2 Muzzleloader ("M")); in 2015-2016, the total harvest 3368 (8A, 2FA, 1J, 2M). Harvest numbers continue to be depressed: 2016-2017: 2907; 2017-2018: 3361; 2018-2019: 3641; 2019-2020: 2846; 2020-2021: 3300; **2021-2022: 3014.**

Carroll - An increase of from 8 to 14 Sundays. Harvest decline. **2013-2014 - total harvest 5915** (5A, 3F, 2M); 2014-2015 - total harvest 5464 (5A, 3F, J1, M2) 2015-2016 - total harvest 5238 (8A, 3FA, 1J, 2M). Recent numbers are still below pre-Sunday increase numbers: 2016-2017: 5663; 2017-2018: 5896; 2018-2019: 5421; 2019-2020: 5523; 2020-2021: 6202; **2021-2022: 5071.**

It is sometimes argued that the declining numbers of recreational hunters is in part responsible for the declining harvest, but that begs the question of whether relying on recreational hunters is therefore “backing the wrong horse” in the effort to reduce the deer population. **Adding Sundays demonstrably does not increase the harvest; it just affords recreational hunters the luxury of choosing which weekend day to devote to hunting, thereby spreading the same number of deer kills over seven days instead of six. In the DNR survey, almost 60% of the hunters did not indicate that they would harvest more deer if Sundays were available.** So adding Sundays is arguably more a matter of hunter convenience than sound deer management. Convenience is surely a benefit, but it is a benefit that should be available to all constituents equitably, not just one small segment. The number of licensed hunters in Maryland is less than 2% of the state’s population. Compare that with the 24% who reported making frequent or occasional trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes. (See footnote 1.)

Contravening many arguments that Sunday hunting is needed to help control a burgeoning deer population is the fact that the size of the Maryland deer herd has been steadily declining from a peak of about 295,000 in 2002 to about 232,000 recently.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, DNR recently reduced the bag limits (i.e., the number of deer allowed to be taken), implicitly acknowledging that reducing the deer population is not a priority. In its proposal to reduce the bag limits, DNR stated that this change was being proposed “in response to hunter request.”<sup>9</sup> According to DNR’s recent survey, hunters want to see the deer population maintained or increased.

It is also sometimes argued that recreational hunters need Sundays because they have other things to do on Saturdays - a situation that plainly applies to most of Maryland’s families who use outdoor resources, be they hunters, birdwatchers, dog walkers, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and trail riders. So why should one group get special consideration? Where is the balancing of the public good, the equitable access? In the Horse Council’s statewide survey on Sunday hunting, 68% of respondents ride on trails on public or private land

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Frederick - Increase of from 6 to 14 Sundays. Harvest decline. **2013-2014 - total harvest 8040** (5A, 1F); 2014-2015 - total harvest 7272 (5A, 3F, 1J, 2M); 2015-2016 - total harvest 7149 (8A, 3FA, 1J, 2M). Recent numbers are still below pre-Sunday increase numbers: 2016-2017: 7556; 2017-2018: 7354; 2018-2019: 6545; 2019-2020: 6358; 2020-2021: 7342; **2021-2022: 6088.**

Garrett - Increase of from 6 to 13 Sundays. 2013-2014 - total harvest 3868 (5A, 1F); 2014-2015 - total harvest 4453 (5A, 3F, 1J, 2M); 2015-2016 - total harvest 4408 (8A, 2FA, 1J, 2M). 2016-2017: 4342; 2017-2018: 5349; 2018-2019: 4973; 2019-2020: 4607; 2020-2021: 4904; .2021-2022: 3923.

Washington - Increase of from 6 to 13 Sundays. Harvest decline. **2013-2014 - total harvest 6376** (5A, 1F); 2014-2015 - total harvest 5087 (5A, 3F, 1J, 2M); 2015-2016 - total harvest 5282 (8A, 2F, 1J, 2M). Harvest numbers continue to be depressed: 2016-2017: 4736; 2017-2018: 4593.; 2018-2019: 4620; 2019-2020: 4041; 2020-2021: 4712; **2021-2022: 3899.**

<sup>8</sup> <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/Maryland-Annual-Deer-Report-2020-2021.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018-2020\\_ProposedSeasons.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018-2020_ProposedSeasons.pdf) See also [https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/news/local/hunters-oppose-md-and-w-va-parks-deer-control-plan/article\\_febb0cd6-2fa9-11e7-9663-93a45fa7c007.html](https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/news/local/hunters-oppose-md-and-w-va-parks-deer-control-plan/article_febb0cd6-2fa9-11e7-9663-93a45fa7c007.html)

one or more days a week. And, perhaps most significantly, 85% said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.

Another important factor to consider in the balancing of the public good is the fact that, unlike many other states, Maryland's hunting seasons are very long. Part of the basis for these long seasons is that Maryland lacked Sunday hunting for most of its history. When Sunday hunting was introduced, there was not a corresponding shortening of the hunting seasons, so now there are both long seasons and increasing Sunday hunting opportunities.

This bill would authorize Sunday hunting on private land. We of course recognize that private land owners have some right to decide what uses they want to allow on their land. But such rights have never been absolute, as any review of zoning and land use rules can plainly establish. And, as a practical matter the public/private land distinction affords little relief since public and private tracts are often relatively small, non-contiguous, intertwined and rarely well-marked. In our survey, referenced above, 56% of respondents said they ride on trails that cross both public and private land.

## CONCLUSION

We urge the Committee to give HB 51 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryland Horse Council  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)




# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY



Thoroughbred & Standardbred horse racing & breeding ♦ trail riding ♦ steeplechase ♦ sport horse competitions ♦ rodeo ♦ carriage driving ♦ therapy programs ♦ recreation ♦ rescue and more

## A Dynamic Agricultural Entity

# 705,000 ACRES

 25% of the State's agricultural land

Pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Chesapeake Bay from harmful runoff

10% of Maryland land



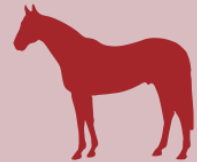
\$80,000,000 on feed, hay and straw

88,000 equine acres preserved forever as farmland



## Number of Horses in Maryland

# 101,457



Horses in Maryland - making MD the number one state in terms of the number of horses per square mile!

10.5 horses per square mile!

## 200

Equine Orgs. Statewide

## 16,000

Horse Farms & Stables

## 35

different equine disciplines

## 40

 breeds

## Integral to the State's Economy

# \$2.1 Billion

Economic Impact



\$78m in tax revenue



28,000 industry jobs



\$1B spent by participants

## A Global Equine Identity



51.8% of households in MD contain horse enthusiasts

10,000 Youths served by MD's Educational Programs

1,500 4H Horse Projects

765 Licensed Riding & Boarding Stables

55 High School Interscholastic Teams

22 Pony Clubs

12 College Equine Teams & Clubs



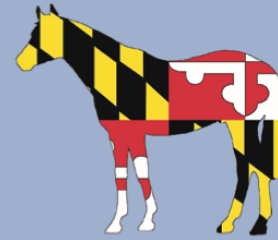
MD is home to International gems:

Triple Crown Race - the Preakness since 1875

International 5-Star at Fair Hill in 2020



# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT



## The Racing Sector



Adds **\$365 million** in value to the state economy



Racing Sector Total Economic Impact of: **\$572 million**



Supports **5,214 jobs**

## The Competition Sector

Competition Sector Total Economic Impact of:

**\$270 million**



Supports **3,346 jobs**



Adds **\$162 million** in value to the state economy



## The Recreation Sector



Supports **4,971 jobs**



Adds **\$234 million** in value to the state economy

Recreation Sector Total Economic Impact of: **\$382 million**



## The Equine Therapy Sector



Adds **\$8.4 million** in value to the state economy



**40** Therapeutic Riding Centers Including over a dozen Veterans groups

Information provided by

The American Horse Council Foundation 2017

Institute for Governmental Service and Research University of Maryland 2017

Maryland Equine Census, USDA 2010

**HB0051\_DNR\_LOI\_ENT-3-11-22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman

Position: INFO



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*  
*Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary*

**Bill Number:** House Bill 51

**Short Title:** Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting - Sundays

**Department's Position:** Letter of Information

**Explanation of Department's Position**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR or the Department) provides this letter of information on HB 51, which would increase hunting recreation in Talbot County. Increased hunting opportunities assist with wildlife management and will result in additional revenue for those industries and groups that support hunting and recreation.

Hunting remains the most cost-effective method for controlling the deer population throughout Maryland. The Department advises that Sunday hunting has contributed positively to managing the state's white-tailed deer population in the 20 counties where it is now permitted. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on weekends, so allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer. DNR estimates an additional 35 turkeys and 60 deer would be harvested on Sundays in Talbot County as a result of this bill.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.