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Health and Government Operations
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB590 Boating- Migratory Waterfowl Season- Prohibited Actions

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 16, 2024

Why We Need This Bill

This bill is a matter of public safety and the Right to Hunt laws.

Many people in Maryland enjoy the migratory waterfowl season to hunt from their stationary blind or blind site without any interruptions. Currently the law states that during migratory hunting season, a person **cannot fish** within 500 yards of any stationary blind site.

Annotate Code Natural Resources 4-512 (attached)

Now with increased recreation on the water, the code does not prohibit anyone on a Vessel such as a boat, canoe, paddle board or other watercraft from coming within 500 yards unless the occupant is fishing. Frequently, hunters are encountering individuals on such vessels and approaching stationary blinds or blind sites. This creates a safety issue to the operator of the vessel and violates the hunters right to hunt.

What Does This Bill Do

HB590 includes in the bill all water vessels are prohibited to operate within a certain distance of occupied stationary blind or blind site that is being used for hunting during the waterfowl open season.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a FAVORABLE vote on HB590.