

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 995 (Delegate Finifter, et al.)  
Environmental Matters

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**Baltimore County - Hunting - Restriction in Residential Areas**

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This bill authorizes Baltimore County to increase the hunting safety zone from 150 yards to up to 300 yards from a dwelling or other site. Within this area, a hunter other than the owner or occupant may not shoot or discharge a firearm or other deadly weapon without permission.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. It is expected that enforcement can be handled with existing resources, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None, as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** Should Baltimore County use its authority to enact an extended safety zone, citizens could feasibly call Department of Natural Resources (DNR) police regarding ordinance violations. However, it is much more likely that citizens in such cases would call 911 and summon the local police department. In any case, it is expected that the number of incidents would be minimal, and that the DNR police could handle any additional enforcement with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Expenditures:** The bill gives Baltimore County the authority to increase the hunting safety zone, but even should it use this authority no additional enforcement expenditures should be incurred. Baltimore County, like all local governments, already has the authority to regulate firearms within its jurisdiction under Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Montgomery County has used this authority to enact a safety zone of 200 yards surrounding any dwelling in non-urban areas (the discharge of firearms within urban areas is prohibited for non-police officers). Therefore, this bill gives Baltimore County authority that

it already effectively has. Further, Baltimore County advises that the number of incidents that would be covered by this legislation is expected to be minimal, and any additional enforcement could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, Department of Fiscal Services

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