

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 934 (Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Hunting - Nontidal Potomac River

This bill allows a person to hunt wild waterfowl from a boat or floating blind in the nontidal waters of the Potomac River. Boats and floating blind sites not anchored or tied at a licensed blind site are not permitted closer than 800 yards off privately owned shoreline.

The bill also provides that on the nontidal waters of the Potomac River, only a riparian landowner owning the required amount (500 yards) of shoreline, or the owner's lessee, or assignee, may erect and maintain a stationary blind site. In addition, on the nontidal waters of the Potomac River, Conococheague Creek, and the Monocacy River, riparian shoreline owned by a federal or State unit or the assignee of the federal or State unit, may not be licensed for the purpose of excluding persons other than the licensee from hunting offshore for wild waterfowl. However, a federal or State unit may apply to the Department of Natural Resources for the establishment of a safety zone in specified areas of the unit's shoreline. The department is required to review each request and determine whether a need exists for a safety zone.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Enforcement activities would continue with the Department of Natural Resources existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. The bill would not materially alter local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 2, 1999

dmm/jr

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