

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 566 (Senator Collins)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Sunday Hunting - Forest Game Birds and Mammals

This bill permits hunting on Sundays for forest game birds and mammals during the open season on private land that is registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR is required to establish by regulation a Sunday hunting property registration program for the registration of private land as property that allows hunting of forest game birds and mammals on Sunday. Property owners would be required to pay a fee of up to \$100 for a three-year registration. Prior to allowing Sunday hunting on public land, DNR must determine whether Sunday hunting would be inconsistent with prior use of the land. If so, DNR may not allow Sunday hunting on that public land.

The department is also required to study and make recommendations to the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee on the implementation of the Sunday hunting of forest game birds and mammals, including law enforcement issues and citizen complaints by December 1 of each year. The study must include a comprehensive assessment of (1) harvest pressure on the deer population in the State as a result of deer management practices by a geographic region; and (2) the deer population in the State as a result of natural predators.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal general fund increase as a result of the land registration fee. Enforcement activities could be handled with DNR's existing budgeted resources, as could the reporting requirement.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

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

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mld/jr

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