
By: **Charles County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County - Firearms - Regulation**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the discharge of certain firearms within a certain
4 distance of certain structures or places within Charles County; providing
5 exceptions to the general prohibition of the discharge of certain firearms under
6 certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to
7 prohibiting the discharge of firearms under certain circumstances in Charles
8 County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 The Public Local Laws of Charles County

11 Section 51-1

12 Article 9 - Public Local Laws of Maryland

13 (1994 Edition and June 1998 Supplement, as amended)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article 9 - Charles County**

17 51-1.

18 A. (1) In this section, "air gun" means a small-caliber weapon, either a
19 handgun or a shoulder weapon, from which pellets, bullets or darts are discharged by
20 the expanding force of compressed air or gas [carbon dioxide (CO₂)]. The term
21 includes air guns called "air rifles," "BB guns," "gas guns," "spring-operated guns"
22 and "air pistols."

23 (2) IN THIS SECTION, "FIREARM" INCLUDES:

24 (I) HANDGUN, ANTIQUE FIREARM, RIFLE, SHOTGUN,
25 SHORT-BARRELED SHOTGUN, AND SHORT-BARRELED RIFLE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE
26 DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 36F OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

27 (II) REGULATED FIREARM, AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 441
28 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

1 (III) MACHINE GUN, AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 372 OF THE
2 ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; AND

3 (IV) ANY OTHER FIREARM THAT HAS NOT BEEN MODIFIED TO
4 RENDER IT PERMANENTLY INOPERATIVE.

5 B. No person shall discharge any air gun OR FIREARM within five hundred
6 (500) feet of any home or residence other than his own; any school or school grounds,
7 whether private or public; any church or church grounds; any place of public
8 assembly; or any public park or playground within the county.

9 C. This section shall not prohibit the owner or tenant of any land from
10 discharging any air gun OR FIREARM on his land for the purpose of the protection of
11 his own property or the life of himself or his family or killing predatory animals which
12 prey upon, damage or destroy his property, livestock or crops. This section shall not
13 apply to the discharge of any air gun on any target, trap or skeet range or shooting
14 area which has been inspected and approved, in writing, by the County
15 Commissioners or their duly authorized agent. This section shall not apply to the
16 discharge of any air gun by any person in a private basement or cellar target range.

17 D. Any person who is convicted of a violation of any provision of this section is
18 guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars
19 (\$500.).

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2000.