

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 481 (Senator Colburn)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Hunting - Recovery of Killed, Wounded, or Injured Deer - Use of Dogs

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt regulations governing the use of dogs to aid in the prompt recovery of killed, wounded, or injured deer. Except as provided in those regulations, a person may not take a dog into the woods or possess or control a dog in the woods and use the dog to hunt or pursue deer.

The bill also repeals language in current law that: (1) allows persons in specified counties to kill a dog found pursuing any deer; and (2) prohibits, in specified counties, the killing of dogs engaged in fox hunting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not materially affect State operations or finances. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not take a dog into the woods or possess or control a dog in the woods and use the dog to hunt deer. In all counties except Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Somerset, and Worcester counties, any Natural Resources police officer, law enforcement officer, or any other person may kill any dog found pursuing any deer. In several specified counties, dogs that are engaged in fox hunting and who have broken away may not be killed.

Background: Currently, the use of dogs for trailing wounded deer is allowed in 17 states.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2000
drg/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 17, 2000

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