

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 805 (Delegate Schisler)

Environmental Matters

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

The 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 prohibits a person from killing a dog found pursuing a deer in Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Somerset, and Worcester counties. In all other counties, any Natural Resources police officer, law enforcement officer, or any other person may kill any dog pursuing deer, except in accordance with the regulations adopted pursuant to the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The 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 is not allowed to 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 11, 2000
jncsjr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2000

Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510