

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 954

(Delegate Boutin, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Natural Resources - Hunting Wild Waterfowl - Susquehanna Flats

This bill decreases the minimum distance, from 800 yards to 400 yards, that a person hunting wild waterfowl in the Susquehanna Flats while standing in water on the natural bottom, from a boat drifting or being sculled, or from a boat that is anchored, must be from shore.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In specified areas, including the Susquehanna Flats, a person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural bottom, from a boat drifting or being sculled, or from a boat that is anchored. In general, the person must be at least 800 yards from shore and at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore. The minimum distance from shore does not apply to a person standing in water on the natural bottom while hunting at a licensed blind or blind site or a person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored at a licensed blind or blind site.

Background: Chapter 703 of 1999 standardized the minimum distance from shore at 800 yards, except in the nontidal waters of the Potomac River. Prior to that, the distance was 800 yards in the Susquehanna Flats (pursuant to regulation) and 1,200 yards in all other areas.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2003
ncs/jr

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