

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 619 (Delegate Edwards)
Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Hunting - Reporting of Deer Kill

This bill modifies provisions regarding the reporting of deer killed. The bill provides that every person killing a deer must report with the unskinned deer or the fresh skin and head of the deer to a designated checking station within 24 hours after killing the deer. The bill repeals prohibitions regarding the removal of the head or hide or any part of a deer until the deer has been checked at a designated checking station.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates deer hunting in the State. Every person killing a deer must report the deer to a designated checking station within 24 hours. If the designated checking stations in the county where a person kills a deer are closed, a natural resources police officer must authorize the person to report with the deer to a designated checking station in another county.

A person may not remove the head or hide or any part from any deer, except internal organs, or cut the meat into parts, until the deer has been checked by DNR or an agent at a designated checking station. Removal of the head or hide of any deer not checked is

prima facie evidence that the deer was hunted illegally. Each separate deer or part of any deer taken illegally or found in possession is considered a separate offense.

Background: Hunters who kill deer at dusk, after the checking stations in those counties have closed, must travel to another county to report the deer. Because of the additional time it takes to travel to an open checking station, the deer meat may spoil before it can be refrigerated.

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 18, 2004
lc/ljm

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