

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 685

(Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

**Allegany , Anne Arundel , Garrett, and Washington Counties - Sound Level
Limits and Noise Control - Shooting Sports Clubs**

This bill prohibits the adoption of sound level limits or noise control ordinances, rules, or regulations that prohibit, in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Garrett, or Washington counties, trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. by a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of January 1, 2005. The bill establishes specified exceptions to those prohibitions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, a political subdivision may not adopt any noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation that prohibits trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. by a shooting sports club established as of January 1, 2001. That prohibition does not apply in Allegany, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Washington counties or in Baltimore City.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) establishes sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations. Except for specified counties, the sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations may not prohibit trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on any range or other property of a shooting sports club that was established as of January 1, 2001. That prohibition does not apply in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Washington counties or in Baltimore City. In general, political subdivisions may not establish standards less stringent than MDE's.

Small Business Effect: Pursuant to current law, in specified counties, shooting sports clubs are subject to the potential for increased regulation relating to sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations. Accordingly, those businesses could potentially be forced out of business if citizen complaints lead to increased regulation. This bill would expand the protection that is currently provided to clubs established as of January 1, 2001 in certain counties to shooting sports clubs established as of January 1, 2005 in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Garrett, and Washington counties. As a result, those shooting sports clubs could continue to operate without the concern of increased regulation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 756 (Garrett County Delegation, Allegany County Delegation, and Washington County Delegation) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Allegany County, Garrett County, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2005
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