

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 956 (Senator Haines)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Hunting on Private Land - Verbal Permission

This bill allows a person to hunt on private land with the *verbal* permission of the landowner or the landowner's agent or lessee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may only hunt on private land with the *written* permission of the landowner or the landowner's agent or lessee and while hunting is liable for any damage caused on the property. The landowner is not liable for accidental injury or damage to a hunter regardless of whether permission was given to hunt on the property. In Harford County, a person that does not obtain written permission to hunt on private property is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of at least \$25 and at most \$250.

Background: The Department of Natural Resources advises that the Natural Resources Police (NRP) routinely check individuals to determine whether they have written permission to hunt on private land. Allowing an individual to simply obtain verbal permission from a landowner would require NRP to follow up with the landowner in

some cases to verify that verbal permission had been given and could be problematic when the landowner is unavailable.

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 16, 2007
ncs/ljm

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