

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1233

(Delegate O'Donnell, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

---

**Wild Waterfowl Hunting - Calvert and St. Mary's Counties**

---

This bill decreases the minimum distance, from 800 to 400 yards, that a person hunting wild waterfowl in the waters of Calvert and St. Mary's counties must be from shore while standing in water on the natural bottom, from a boat that is drifting or being sculled, or from a boat that is anchored, except when the person is within the boundaries of a municipal corporation in either county. In those instances, the person must be at least 800 yards from shore, including shore emerging at mean low water.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's changes can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

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

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** By regulation, the Department of Natural Resources establishes an offshore waterfowl hunting zone. Within this zone, a person may hunt waterfowl while standing on the natural bottom, from a boat that is drifting or being sculled, or from a boat that is anchored. In most areas, a person must be at least 800 yards from shore. In specified waters, including the waters of Harford and Baltimore counties, the minimum required distance is 400 yards.

---

## **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 4, 2009  
mlm/ljm

---

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510