

Department of Legislative Services
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 1043

(Senator Stoltzfus, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

**Hunting Wild Waterfowl - Dorchester, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico
Counties**

This bill decreases the minimum distance, from 800 to 400 yards, that a person hunting wild waterfowl in specified waters of Dorchester, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico 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.

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: HB 1472 (Dorchester County Delegation, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Dorchester and Somerset counties; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 25, 2010

mam/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 9, 2010

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