

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 833

(Delegate Norman)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

This bill decreases the archery hunting safety zone size, for archery hunters in Harford County who are shooting downward from a tree stand that is at least 15 feet high, from 150 yards to 75 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the “safety zone,” of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant. Also, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot at any animal while it is within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

For archery hunters in Frederick County, the safety zone extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any animal within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

Background: The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' *Hunting in America* report, based on data from 2006, found hunters invest \$1.3 billion annually to preserve, protect, and enhance wildlife populations and the environment. In Maryland, it is estimated that over 160,000 hunters annually enjoy over two million days of hunting and contribute over \$257 million to the State's retail sales economy.

Over 8,000 people take the Maryland Hunter Education Course every year. However, hunting accidents do occur.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Department of Natural Resources, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2011
mm/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2011

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