

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 670 (Delegate Glass)  
Environmental Matters

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Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

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This bill establishes a statewide archery hunting safety zone of 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings. Currently, a 50-yard archery hunting safety zone only applies in Carroll and Frederick counties. In Harford County, the safety zone is 100 yards. In all other counties, the safety zone is 150 yards.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

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

**Local Effect:** Minimal or none.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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

100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a school during school hours or when a school-approved activity is taking place.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation State Overview Report*, issued in September 2012, found that over 37 million people spent time fishing and/or hunting and wildlife-related recreation expenditures totaled \$145 billion nationally. In Maryland, it is estimated that every year over 88,000 hunters enjoy over one million days of hunting and contribute over \$264 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.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 366 of 2013 received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2014  
mam/lgc

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