

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 309 (Montgomery County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

This bill decreases the archery hunting safety zone size, in Montgomery County, from 150 yards to 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Minimal or 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 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 1 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.

Montgomery County reports that as a result of the growing deer population, the county and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission have implemented several deer management efforts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 671 of 2013 received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 138 (Montgomery County Delegation) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Montgomery County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2014
mc/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 18, 2014

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