

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 5 (Senator Eckardt, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Natural Resources - Goose and Duck Hunting Seasons - Extension**

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This joint resolution urges members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to work with Congress and the U.S. Department of the Interior to extend goose and duck hunting seasons on the Eastern Shore to run through February of each year.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Compliance with this joint resolution does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None. Local governments are not directly affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Hunting seasons for migratory geese and ducks are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the U.S. Department of the Interior, in collaboration with state wildlife agencies. Authorized hunting seasons for these species are established through regulations promulgated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for each state. State wildlife agencies then select season dates based on guidelines provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For each species or group of waterfowl species, these guidelines include starting dates, ending dates, total allowable days of hunting, and allowable bag limits. According to the Department of Natural Resources, for most species of ducks and Canada goose, the maximum allowable days of hunting is usually 60 to 70 days depending on the population levels of these species in eastern North America, including Canada.

The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated 29,000 waterfowl hunters in Maryland totaled 137,000 days afield. Hunters spent, on average, \$562 that year on food, lodging, transportation, and other trip costs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HJ 5 (Delegate Mautz, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2015  
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