

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 20

(Delegate O'Donnell)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Calvert County and St. Mary's County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

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This bill decreases the archery hunting safety zone size, in Calvert and St. Mary's counties, from 150 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling, house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

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

**Local Effect:** 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 or Montgomery counties, 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 55 of 2015 passed the House without amendments and the Senate with amendments. However, the chambers were unable to reconcile their versions of the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Calvert and St. Mary's counties, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2016  
md/lgc

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