

# SENATE BILL 796

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CF HB 1087

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By: **Senators Carozza and Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to  
4 hunt game birds and mammals on certain Sundays, subject to certain time  
5 restrictions, in Wicomico County; authorizing the Department to allow Sunday  
6 hunting on certain public land in Wicomico County, subject to certain time  
7 restrictions; adding Wicomico County to the list of counties in which the safety zone  
8 for archery hunters extends a certain distance from certain structures; and generally  
9 relating to hunting in Wicomico County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section ~~10–410(a)(1)(i)~~ 10–410(a)(1), (4), (5), and (15) and (g)(3)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 10–410(g)(1) and (2)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – Natural Resources**

2 10–410.

3 (a) (1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of  
4 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

5 1. Allegany County;

6 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert  
7 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;8 3. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Caroline  
9 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

10 4. Cecil County;

11 5. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Charles  
12 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;13 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester  
14 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

15 7. Garrett County;

16 8. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Queen  
17 Anne's County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

18 9. St. Mary's County;

19 10. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset  
20 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; [and]

21 11. Washington County; AND

22 **12. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (V) OF THIS**  
23 **PARAGRAPH, WICOMICO COUNTY, FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30**  
24 **A.M.**25 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 of this paragraph  
26 do not apply:27 1. On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and28 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two  
29 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

1 (iii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)2, 3, 5, and 8 of this  
 2 paragraph do not apply:

3 1. On each Sunday during the deer firearms season;

4 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two  
 5 Sundays in November during the deer bow hunting season; and

6 3. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season.

7 (iv) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)6 of this paragraph  
 8 do not apply:

9 1. On each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first  
 10 Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January, inclusive; and

11 2. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season.

12 (v) **THE TIME RESTRICTIONS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)12 OF**  
 13 **THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY:**

14 1. **ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE DEER FIREARMS**  
 15 **SEASON; AND**

16 2. **ON THE LAST THREE SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER AND THE**  
 17 **FIRST TWO SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER OF THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON.**

18 (4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer  
 19 firearms season:

20 (i) On each Sunday in:

21 1. Harford County; and

22 2. Worcester County; **AND**

23 (ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County[]; and

24 (iii) In Wicomico County, on:

25 1. The first Sunday; and

26 2. The second Sunday from 30 minutes before sunrise until  
 27 10:30 a.m].

1 (5) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer bow  
2 hunting season on:

3 (i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in  
4 November in:

- 5 1. Harford County; AND
- 6 2. [Wicomico County; and
- 7 3.] Worcester County; and

8 (ii) The first Sunday in November in Anne Arundel County.

9 (15) (i) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public land  
10 designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

- 11 1. Allegany County;
- 12 2. Cecil County;
- 13 3. Garrett County;
- 14 4. St. Mary's County;
- 15 5. Washington County;
- 16 6. ~~WICOMICO COUNTY;~~
- 17 ~~7.~~ Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey  
18 hunting season;

19 ~~7.] 8.~~ Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in  
20 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive; ~~and~~

21 ~~8.] 9.~~ Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,  
22 Somerset County, on public land leased to a hunt club from 30 minutes before sunrise until  
23 10:30 a.m.; AND

24 9. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS  
25 PARAGRAPH, WICOMICO COUNTY, FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30  
26 A.M.

27 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph ~~[(i)8] (i)9~~ of this  
28 paragraph do not apply:

1                   1.     On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and

2                   2.     On the last three Sundays in October and the first two  
3 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

4                   **(III) THE TIME RESTRICTIONS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)9 OF**  
5 **THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY:**

6                   **1. ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE DEER FIREARMS**  
7 **SEASON; AND**

8                   **2. ON THE LAST THREE SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER AND THE**  
9 **FIRST TWO SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER OF THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON.**

10           (g)   (1)   Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a  
11 person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may  
12 not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the  
13 “safety zone”, of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by  
14 human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without  
15 the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

16                   (2)   A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or  
17 discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school during school hours  
18 or at a time when a school–approved activity is taking place.

19                   (3)   (i)   For archery hunters in Allegany County, Calvert County, Carroll  
20 County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery  
21 County, St. Mary’s County, [or] Washington County, **OR WICOMICO COUNTY**, the safety  
22 zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling  
23 house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

24                   (ii)   For archery hunters in Anne Arundel County, the safety zone  
25 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house,  
26 residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

27           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2023.