

SENATE BILL 824

M2

3lr2505

By: **Senator Carozza**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Worcester County – Natural Resources – Hunting**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in
4 Worcester County to hunt game birds or game mammals on a Sunday during the
5 open season for that game bird or game mammal; authorizing the Department to
6 allow a person in Worcester County to hunt on public land designated for hunting on
7 Sundays; altering the safety zone in Worcester County within which archery hunting
8 may not take place except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
9 hunting in Worcester County.

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

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 10–410.

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

21 1. Allegany County;

22 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert
23 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 4. Cecil County;

4 5. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Charles
5 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

6 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester
7 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

8 7. Garrett County;

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

11 9. St. Mary's County;

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

14 11. Washington County; **AND**

15 **12. WORCESTER COUNTY.**

16 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 of this paragraph
17 do not apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 1. On each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first

1 (ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County; and

2 (iii) In Wicomico County, on:

3 1. The first Sunday; and

4 2. The second Sunday from 30 minutes before sunrise until
5 10:30 a.m.

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

8 (i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in
9 November in:

10 1. Harford County; AND

11 2. Wicomico County; and

12 [3. Worcester County; and]

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

14 (6) The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of
15 the spring turkey hunting season in:

16 (i) Carroll County;

17 (ii) Kent County; and

18 (iii) Talbot County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

19 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the Department
20 may allow a person with a deer management permit to shoot deer on any Sunday
21 throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the permit.

22 (8) The Department may allow a person using a State certified raptor to
23 hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the game birds
24 or mammals.

25 (9) The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in an
26 organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

27 (10) The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared game birds
28 or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated shooting ground
29 in accordance with § 10-906 of this title.

1 (11) The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or younger to
2 hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department in
3 accordance with this subtitle.

4 (12) Except as provided in paragraphs (8) through (10) of this subsection and
5 subject to paragraph (7) of this subsection, a person may not hunt on Sunday in:

6 (i) Baltimore City;

7 (ii) Baltimore County;

8 (iii) Howard County; or

9 (iv) Prince George's County.

10 (13) A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

11 (14) A person may not hunt on public land within the State park system on
12 Sunday.

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

15 1. Allegany County;

16 2. Cecil County;

17 3. Garrett County;

18 4. St. Mary's County;

19 5. Washington County;

20 **6. WORCESTER COUNTY;**

21 **[6.] 7.** Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey
22 hunting season;

23 **[7.] 8.** Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in
24 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive; and

25 **[8.] 9.** Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset
26 County, on public land leased to a hunt club from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30
27 a.m.

28 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph **[(i)8] (I)9** of this

1 paragraph do not apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (4) During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or
23 occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any wild bird or mammal within the safety zone
24 without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

25 (5) In Harford County, an archery hunter shall use a tree stand when
26 hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence,
27 church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

28 (6) In Montgomery County or Washington County, an archery hunter shall
29 be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when
30 hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence,
31 church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
33 1, 2023.