

Chapter 611

(House Bill 1087)

AN ACT concerning

Wicomico County – Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section ~~10-410(a)(1)(i)~~ 10-410(a)(1), (4), (5), and (15) and (g)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10-410(g)(1) and (2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

10-410.

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

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

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

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

7. Garrett County;

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

9. St. Mary's County;

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

11. Washington County; AND

12. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (V) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, WICOMICO COUNTY, FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

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

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

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

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

1. On each Sunday during the deer firearms season;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (i) On each Sunday in:

1. Harford County; and
2. Worcester County; **AND**

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

- (iii) In Wicomico County, on:

1. The first Sunday; and
2. The second Sunday from 30 minutes before sunrise until

10:30 a.m].

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

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

1. Harford County; **AND**
2. [Wicomico County; and
- 3.] Worcester County; and

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

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

1. Allegany County;
2. Cecil County;
3. Garrett County;
4. St. Mary's County;
5. Washington County;
6. ~~WICOMICO COUNTY;~~
7. Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey

hunting season;

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

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

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

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

1. On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and
2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

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

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

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

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal 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, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.