

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1005

(Howard County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Howard County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone and Position of Archery
Hunter Ho. Co. 15–23**

This bill decreases the archery hunting “safety zone” for archery hunters in Howard County who are hunting under the authority of a deer management permit or who are actively participating in a hunting program administered by the county from 150 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Howard County who is hunting under the authority of a deer management permit or is actively participating in a hunting program administered by the county must be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law:

Archery Hunting Safety Zones

Generally, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within a specified area 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 Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary’s, and Washington 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 Anne Arundel County, the safety zone extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Harford County must use a tree stand when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Montgomery and Washington counties must be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, school, 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 wild bird or mammal within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

Deer Management Permits

Maryland landowners or agricultural lessees who are experiencing severe economic loss from deer to commercially grown crops (including row crops, truck crops, pasture, nursery stock, orchards, and certain tree plantings) or significant ecological damage to certain native plant communities due to deer may be eligible to receive a deer management permit. Deer management permits allow the permittee or their agent to remove deer from the designated property outside any deer bag limits and/or the established deer hunting seasons,

including on any Sunday throughout the year. These permits are issued by the Wildlife and Heritage Service within the Department of Natural Resources; there is no permit fee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 96 (Senator Hester) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2023
rh/lgc Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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