

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 857 (Delegate Hornberger, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Natural Resources - Pursuing Wounded Deer After Legal Hunting Hours -
Authorization

This bill allows a person who is authorized by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hunt deer, who wounds a deer during legal hunting hours, to pursue and kill the deer after legal hunting hours. The bill requires that the person use only the means authorized for the applicable hunting season or permit to kill the deer. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under Section 10-410 of the Natural Resources Article, which establishes restrictions on hunting wildlife, a person may not hunt any game bird or mammal, except raccoon and opossum, at nighttime. “Nighttime” means the time beginning one-half hour after sunset and ending one-half hour before sunrise the following day, as published in DNR’s hunter’s guide, unless otherwise provided by statute. In addition, Sunday hunting, on certain Sundays, in certain counties, is restricted to morning hours, from one-half hour before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 100 (Senator Bailey) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
js/sdk

Analysis by: Beatrice F. Amoateng

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510