

SENATE BILL 879

M2

6lr2286
CF HB 1324

By: **Senator Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Natural Resources – ~~Sunday Deer Hunting and~~ Archery**
3 **Hunting Safety Zones**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to~~
5 ~~hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer bow hunting season in Baltimore City~~, adding
6 Baltimore City, subject to a certain exception, to the list of jurisdictions in which the
7 safety zone for archery hunters extends a certain distance from certain structures;
8 and generally relating to hunting in Baltimore City.

9 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
10 ~~Article – Natural Resources~~
11 ~~Section 10–410(a) and (g)(3)(i) and 10–906(b)(3)(i)~~
12 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
13 ~~(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Natural Resources
16 Section 10–410(g)(1)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Natural Resources
21 Section 10–410(g)(3)(i)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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.



(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 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.;~~

~~11. Washington County;~~

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

~~13. Subject to subparagraph (v) of this paragraph, Wicomico County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.~~

1 (ii) ~~The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 and 12 of this~~
2 ~~paragraph do not apply:~~

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

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

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

8 ~~1. On each Sunday during the deer firearms season;~~

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

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

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

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

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

17 (v) ~~The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)(13) of this~~
18 ~~paragraph do not apply:~~

19 ~~1. On the first Sunday of the deer firearms season; and~~

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

22 (2) ~~The Department may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the~~
23 ~~deer hunting seasons from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in~~
24 ~~January, inclusive, in:~~

25 (i) ~~Carroll County; and~~

26 (ii) ~~Frederick County.~~

27 (3) (i) ~~Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Department~~
28 ~~may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from 30~~
29 ~~minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. in:~~

30 ~~1. Kent County;~~

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1 ~~2. Montgomery County; and~~

2 ~~3. Talbot County.~~

3 ~~(ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply.~~

4 ~~1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under~~
5 ~~this subtitle;~~

6 ~~2. On one Sunday designated by the Department during the~~
7 ~~deer firearms season;~~

8 ~~3. In Kent County, on each Sunday during the deer bow~~
9 ~~hunting season and the deer muzzle loader season;~~

10 ~~4. In Montgomery County, on one Sunday designated by the~~
11 ~~Department during the deer bow hunting season; and~~

12 ~~5. In Talbot County, on the last three Sundays in October~~
13 ~~and the first two Sundays in November during the bow hunting season.~~

14 ~~(4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer~~
15 ~~firearms season;~~

16 ~~(i) On each Sunday in Harford County; and~~

17 ~~(ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County.~~

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

20 ~~(i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in~~
21 ~~November in Harford County; and~~

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

23 ~~(6) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO HUNT DEER ON~~
24 ~~EACH SUNDAY OF THE DEER BOW HUNTING SEASON IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

25 ~~(7) The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of~~
26 ~~the spring turkey hunting season in:~~

27 ~~(i) Carroll County;~~

28 ~~(ii) Kent County; and~~

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

2 ~~[(7)] (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the~~
 3 ~~Department may allow a person with a deer management permit to shoot deer on any~~
 4 ~~Sunday throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the permit.~~

5 ~~[(8)] (9) The Department may allow a person using a State certified~~
 6 ~~raptor to hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the~~
 7 ~~game birds or mammals.~~

8 ~~[(9)] (10) The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in~~
 9 ~~an organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.~~

10 ~~[(10)] (11) The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared game~~
 11 ~~birds or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated shooting~~
 12 ~~ground in accordance with § 10-906 of this title.~~

13 ~~[(11)] (12) The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or~~
 14 ~~younger to hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department~~
 15 ~~in accordance with this subtitle.~~

16 ~~[(12)] (13) Except as provided in paragraphs [(8)] (9) through [(10)] (11) of~~
 17 ~~this subsection and subject to paragraph [(7)] (8) of this subsection, a person may not hunt~~
 18 ~~on Sunday in:~~

19 ~~(i) Baltimore City;~~

20 ~~(ii) Baltimore County;~~

21 ~~[(iii)] (II) Howard County; or~~

22 ~~[(iv)] (III) Prince George's County.~~

23 ~~[(13)] (14) A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.~~

24 ~~[(14)] (15) A person may not hunt on public land within the State park~~
 25 ~~system on Sunday.~~

26 ~~[(15)] (16) (i) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public~~
 27 ~~land designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:~~

28 ~~1. Allegany County;~~

29 ~~2. Cecil County;~~

30 ~~3. Garrett County;~~

~~4. St. Mary's County;~~

~~5. Washington County;~~

~~6. Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey hunting season;~~

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

~~8. 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.;~~

~~9. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Worcester County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; and~~

~~10. 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 and 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)10 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.

(3) (i) For archery hunters in Allegany County, **BALTIMORE CITY**, **EXCEPT IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 43A**, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery County, St. Mary's

1 County, Washington County, Worcester County, or Wicomico County, the safety zone
2 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house,
3 residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

4 ~~10-906.~~

5 ~~(b) (3) (i) As part of the application for a regulated shooting ground permit,~~
6 ~~a person may apply to the Department for authorization to allow hunting on Sunday as~~
7 ~~provided under [§ 10-410(a)(10)] § 10-410(A)(11) of this title.~~

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.