



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 98

Short Title: Somerset County – Sunday Hunting

Department's Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR or the Department) provides this letter of information on SB 98, which would increase hunting recreation in Somerset County. Increased game mammal and game bird hunting opportunities assist with population management and will result in additional revenue for those industries and groups that support hunting.

Hunting remains the most effective method for controlling and managing the deer population throughout Maryland. The Department advises that Sunday hunting has contributed positively to managing the state's white-tailed deer population in the 20 counties where it is now permitted. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on weekends, so allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer.

On Sundays during the 2020-21 deer seasons in Somerset County, 295 deer were harvested. The Department estimates 50–125 deer would be harvested on the additional Sundays in Somerset County as a result of this bill.

This bill also extends Sunday hunting to public lands in Somerset County that are specifically leased to hunt clubs by DNR.

For additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.