



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

Bill Number: House Bill 485

Short Title: Montgomery County - Deer Hunting - Sundays

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 HB 485, which would increase hunting recreation in Montgomery 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 2020-2021 deer seasons in Montgomery County, 299 deer were harvested. DNR estimates another 15-20% would be harvested on the additional Sundays in Montgomery County depending on how the Sundays were allocated for the three weapon seasons in the county.

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