



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 870
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WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL

John T. Cannon, President/At-Large
Jeff Merritt, Vice-President/District #2
James Winn, At-Large
Shanie Shields, District #1
Shane T. Baker, District #3

Josh Hastings, District #4
Joe Holloway, District #5
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

February 25, 2025

Environment and Transportation Committee
Attn: The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 654 – Wicomico County- Sunday Hunting Time Restrictions on Private Property-
Repeal

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members,

The Wicomico County Council appreciates your consideration of House Bill No. 654, which seeks to repeal time restrictions for Sunday hunting in Wicomico County. As previously stated in our letter dated February 4th, the Council strongly supports this legislation as it enhances hunting opportunities, aids wildlife management efforts, and benefits our local economy.

We are writing to express our support for the proposed amendments to the bill, which clarify that the repeal of Sunday hunting time restrictions applies specifically to private property. The amendments maintain the original intent of the bill while ensuring clear and precise language.

The Council believes that these amendments provide necessary clarification while maintaining the intended benefits of the bill. We remain committed to supporting measures that expand hunting opportunities for our residents and encourage outdoor recreation in Wicomico County.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



John T. Cannon, Council President

Enclosure

cc: Wicomico County Council
Wicomico County Delegation
Wicomico County Executive
Bunky Luffman, Director of Administration



HB0654/433322/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

25 FEB 25
10:21:32

BY: Delegate Adams

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 654

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “**Restrictions**” insert “**on Private Property**”; in lines 4 and 5, strike “and public land designated for Sunday hunting”; and in line 9, strike “10-410(a)” and substitute “10-410(a)(1)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 through 6, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 9 on page 3 through line 8 on page 6, inclusive.



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February 4, 2025

Wicomico County Delegation
Attn: Delegate Christopher T. Adams, Chair
Lowe House Office Building, Room 405
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill No. 654 – Wicomico County – Sunday Hunting Time Restrictions-
Repeal

Dear Delegate Adams and Members of the Wicomico County Delegation,

The Wicomico County Council writes in full support of House Bill No. 654, which seeks to repeal the time restrictions for Sunday hunting in Wicomico County.

Allowing Sunday hunting without current restrictions will provide greater opportunities for hunters, particularly those who may not have flexibility during the workweek. This change will also support local wildlife management efforts and help boost the local economy through increased participation in hunting-related activities, including tourism and outdoor recreation.

The Council supports the bill as currently drafted and has enclosed a copy for your reference.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



John T. Cannon, Council President

Enclosure

cc: Wicomico County Council
Wicomico County Delegation
Wicomico County Executive
Bunky Luffman, Director of Administration

HOUSE BILL 654

M2

5lr0915
CF 5lr2807

By: **Wicomico County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Sunday Hunting Time Restrictions – Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain time restrictions that apply to the hunting of game
4 birds and mammals on certain Sundays on private property and public land
5 designated for Sunday hunting in Wicomico County; and generally relating to
6 Sunday hunting in Wicomico County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 10–410(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 10–410.

16 (a) (1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of
17 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

18 1. Allegany County;

19 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert
20 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

21 3. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Caroline
22 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 2. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season.

4 [(v) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)(13) of this
5 paragraph do not apply:

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

7 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
8 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.]

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

12 (i) Carroll County; and

13 (ii) Frederick County.

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

17 1. Kent County;

18 2. Montgomery County; and

19 3. Talbot County.

20 (ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply:

21 1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under
22 this subtitle;

23 2. On one Sunday designated by the Department during the
24 deer firearms season;

25 3. In Kent County, on each Sunday during the deer bow
26 hunting season and the deer muzzle loader season;

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

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

1 (4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer
2 firearms season:

3 (i) On each Sunday in Harford County; and

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

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

7 (i) The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in
8 November in Harford County; and

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

10 (6) The Department may allow a person to hunt turkey on each Sunday of
11 the spring turkey hunting season in:

12 (i) Carroll County;

13 (ii) Kent County; and

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

15 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the Department
16 may allow a person with a deer management permit to shoot deer on any Sunday
17 throughout the year in accordance with the terms of the permit.

18 (8) The Department may allow a person using a State certified raptor to
19 hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the game birds
20 or mammals.

21 (9) The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in an
22 organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

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

26 (11) The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or younger to
27 hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department in
28 accordance with this subtitle.

29 (12) Except as provided in paragraphs (8) through (10) of this subsection and
30 subject to paragraph (7) of this subsection, a person may not hunt on Sunday in:

- (i) Baltimore City;
- (ii) Baltimore County;
- (iii) Howard County; or
- (iv) Prince George's County.

(13) A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

(14) A person may not hunt on public land within the State park system on Sunday.

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

- 1. Allegany County;
- 2. Cecil County;
- 3. Garrett County;
- 4. St. Mary's County;
- 5. Washington County;
- 6. **WICOMICO COUNTY;**
- 7. Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey hunting season;

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

[8.] 9. 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.; **AND**

[9.] 10. 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] **(I)9 AND 10** of this paragraph do not apply:

- 1 1. On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and
- 2 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
- 3 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

4 [(iii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)10 of this paragraph
5 do not apply:

- 6 1. On the first Sunday of the deer firearms season; and
- 7 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
- 8 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.]

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2025.