



## **House Bill 716 Criminal and Civil Trespass Professional Land Surveyors**

### **Position Support with Amendment**

Maryland REALTORS® appreciates the goal of House Bill 716 to improve safety during the period when deer hunting with firearms is permitted. However, we recommend changes to protect surveyor safety without unnecessarily delaying time sensitive real estate transactions.

As introduced, House Bill 716 prohibits a professional land surveyor or property line surveyor from conducting a survey on private property during the period when deer hunting with firearms is permitted unless the property owner has given express permission.

Often, surveyors sometimes must briefly access areas outside the boundaries of the property being surveyed in order to locate markers, confirm boundary lines, or complete required measurements. That would be thwarted under this legislation as introduced, which impacts real estate sales. When surveys are delayed, closings and other time sensitive steps in the transaction can be delayed as well.

Maryland REALTORS® recommends amending the bill to use a notice-based approach during hunting season rather than effectively shutting down survey work. During hunting season, a surveyor should be permitted to conduct necessary field work if the surveyor provides advance notice to surrounding property owners in the vicinity that surveying work will occur in that area on the specified date or dates. This balances surveyor safety with the ability to do their jobs. In addition, it promotes awareness and coordination during hunting activity.

With this amendment, Maryland REALTORS® respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 716.

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