



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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April 1, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 879 - THIRD READER**

**SHORT TITLE: BALTIMORE CITY – NATURAL RESOURCES – SUNDAY DEER HUNTING AND ARCHERY HUNTING SAFETY ZONES**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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The Department of Natural Resources offers the following information concerning SB 879.

SB 879 adds Baltimore City to the list of 13 counties that have a 50-yard safety zone for archery hunting. The standard distance is 150 yards (which will remain for Legislative District 43A as amended). Hunters may not hunt within an established safety zone or shoot at game within an established safety zone unless they have prior written permission from the owner or occupants of any dwelling within the zone. Reducing the safety zone to 50 yards for archery hunting can assist with deer overpopulation issues by enabling hunters to access more deer habitat, particularly in urban and suburban areas, that otherwise would be closed to hunting.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Legislation reducing archery safety zones to 50 yards first appeared in 2010 and applied to Frederick County. It has slowly expanded to other counties since then. The department has not received a significant number of complaints associated with the reduced 50-yard zone where it is established.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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SB 879 establishes a 50-yard safety zone for archery hunting within city limits with the exception of Legislative District 43A. In that district, the safety zone remains 150 yards.