



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

March 4, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 780 - FIRST READER

SHORT TITLE: WICOMICO COUNTY – SUNDAY HUNTING TIME RESTRICTIONS – REPEAL

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department of Natural Resources offers the following information concerning HB 780. Removing the 10:30am restriction on Sunday hunting would increase hunting opportunities. This increased opportunity assists with managing the state’s deer population. Lower deer numbers result in less agricultural crop damage, fewer deer-vehicle collisions, and reduced conflicts with humans in urban and suburban settings. Many hunters find the evening hours more productive than the morning when deer hunting. Likewise, afternoon and evening hours on Sundays can help hunters avoid other conflicts they may have with the morning hours. Lastly, Sunday hunting is an important hunter recruitment tool for the department as it often doubles the weekend hunting time available and assists with keeping hunters active in the field.

HB 780 also reduces possible confusion for hunters and other outdoor recreation users by creating a uniform end time for hunting activities on all days during the annual hunting season. Currently, hunters must stop hunting at 10:30 am only on certain Sundays and in certain counties.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sunday hunting is currently open on 20 Sundays during the regulated deer season in Wicomico County. Fourteen of those Sundays have an end time of 10:30 am whereas the remaining Sundays have the standard evening end time. All other deer hunting days in Wicomico County (approximately 125 days total) have the standard evening end time. Likewise, all furbearer and small game hunting activities in Wicomico County currently must cease at 10:30 am on Sundays, whereas the standard evening end time applies to the remaining days of the season. All-day Sunday hunting has not created significant complaints to the department over the past two decades.

BILL EXPLANATION

HB 780 repeals the 10:30am required end time for hunting on certain Sundays in Wicomico County.

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