

# **HB1324\_Rosenberg\_FAV**

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Position: FAV

**SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG**  
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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg  
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee

In Support of

**House Bill 1324**

**Baltimore City - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The northwest section of Baltimore City is currently battling deer overpopulation that is causing serious environmental damage. This bill allows deer hunting in Baltimore City on each Sunday of deer bow hunting system. The bill adds Baltimore City to the list of jurisdictions that have established a safety zone for archery hunters extending 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building camp occupied by human beings.

A healthy deer population is considered 15 to 20 per square mile, many wooded parcels in the metro Baltimore vicinity have more than 80 deer per square mile. These deer eat forestry understory which prevents new trees from regenerating woods. This in turn damages native plants and helps the spread of invasive plants. Deer also spread deer ticks who carry Lyme disease.

This is an especially pressing issue for my constituents in Mt. Washington and Roland Park. Just this Wednesday, my staff heard the story of a constituent who has had a 40-year-old garden decimated by deer overpopulation. This bill establishes a safety zone for Sunday deer hunting. There are areas of privately owned woods scattered throughout the area that lend themselves to careful hunting by cross bow. Currently, there is a safety zone of 150 yards, this distance would not allow for cross bow hunting in such private woods, but reducing the distance to 50 yards, as this bill proposes would. 12 Maryland counties have a 50-yard safety zone for archery hunters including Harford and Montgomery.

I commend the City's recognition of this issue through their [Deer Program](#). This bill serves as an excellent compliment to this program by allowing those with large private wooded areas to help defend our local ecosystem from deer overpopulation. **For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 1324.**

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**HB1324\_DNR\_LOI\_ENT\_3-11-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lydia McPherson

Position: INFO



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

March 11, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1324 - FIRST 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 HB 1324.

Opening Sundays for deer hunting is an important tool for managing their population. Lower deer numbers result in less agricultural crop damage, fewer deer-vehicle collisions, and reduced conflicts with humans in urban and suburban settings like Baltimore City. Many hunters only have time to hunt on the weekends, so adding Sunday opportunities significantly increases the amount of time they have to hunt. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Sunday hunting is also 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 1324 also 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. 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. The department has not received a significant number of complaints associated with the reduced 50-yard zone where it is established.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Sunday hunting for deer is currently open in 20 of 23 counties to varying degrees. Some counties allow Sunday deer hunting on all Sundays during the season, while other counties only allow deer hunting on three Sundays. Sunday hunting has not created significant complaints to the department since 2003 when Sunday hunting was first allowed. Hunters have harvested over 125,000 deer on Sundays since becoming a legal hunting day.

**BILL EXPLANATION**

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HB 1324 opens archery hunting for deer in Baltimore City on each Sunday of the deer archery season. It also establishes a 50-yard safety zone for archery hunting within city limits.

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