

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 754 (Senator Miller)
Judicial Proceedings

Hunting - Schools - Expanded Safety Zone

This bill establishes a statewide hunting safety zone of 500 yards from a school.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the “safety zone,” of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant. Also, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot at any animal while it is within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

For archery hunters in Carroll and Frederick counties, the safety zone extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any animal within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

Background: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation State Overview Report*, issued in September 2012, found that over 37 million people spent time fishing and/or hunting and wildlife-related recreation expenditures totaled \$145 billion nationally. In Maryland, it is estimated that every year over 88,000 hunters enjoy over one million days of hunting and contribute over \$264 million to the State's retail sales economy.

Over 8,000 people take the Maryland Hunter Education Course every year. However, hunting accidents do occur.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2013
mm/lgc

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