

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 313

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone  
MC 10-17

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This bill decreases the archery hunting safety zone size, in Montgomery County, from 100 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Montgomery County must use a tree stand when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, school, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal operational impact on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the extent that DNR receives an increased number of calls and complaints in Montgomery County related to hunting in safety zones. DNR's Natural Resources Police can handle any such increase with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local operations or finances in Montgomery County.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, a person, other than the owner or occupant, may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within a specified area 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 Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, and St. Mary’s counties, the safety zone extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings. For archery hunters in Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, the safety zone extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings. An archery hunter in Harford County must use a tree stand when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a school during school hours or when a school-approved activity is taking place.

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:** In 2013, House Bill 671 was introduced to decrease the archery hunting safety zone size in Montgomery County from 150 yards to 50 yards; the bill did not pass. Chapter 290 of 2014 (Senate Bill 309) decreased the archery hunting safety zone size in Montgomery County from 150 yards to 100 yards.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2017  
md/lgc Third Reader - March 21, 2017  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 21, 2017

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