

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1429 (Delegate Glass, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Natural Resources - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

This bill standardizes the “safety zone” for archery hunters statewide by specifying that archery hunters may not hunt within 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. This reduces the safety zone for archery hunters in some counties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although the bill may result in an increase in the number of calls and complaints that the Natural Resources Police within the Department of Natural Resources receives, the bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

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, Montgomery, 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 County, 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 and Montgomery counties 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, and St. Mary's counties; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/lgc

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