

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 293 (Senator Bailey, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow a person to hunt migratory game birds on Sundays during the open season on private property or on public land designated for Sunday hunting by DNR in any county in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in special fund revenues annually beginning in FY 2020 from the sale of additional three-day waterfowl and small game hunting licenses and any associated stamps. Expenditures are not materially affected.

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

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal increase in sales for small businesses that support hunting, including sporting goods stores, restaurants, and motels.

Analysis

Current Law: A “migratory game bird” means any wetland game bird, dove, or woodcock, or any part, egg, offspring, or dead body of any of them. A “wetland game bird” means brant, coots, ducks, gallinules, geese, mergansers, rails, snipe, and swan or any part, egg, offspring, or dead body of any of them (including birds raised in captivity and released to the wild or otherwise used for hunting purposes.” Hunting game birds and mammals on Sundays is generally prohibited, with specified exceptions.

Hunting Game Birds and Mammals on Private Property and Public Land

DNR may allow hunting on Sundays in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties for any game bird or mammal, *except migratory and wetland game birds*, during the open

season for these animals on specified private property and public land designated for Sunday hunting by DNR.

In addition, the following persons may hunt game birds and mammals on Sundays: (1) a person using State-certified raptors during open season; (2) an unarmed person participating in an organized fox hunt; and (3) a person using a regulated shooting ground to hunt pen-reared game birds.

Hunting Turkey on Private Property and Public Land

A person may hunt turkey on *private* property in Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, and St. Mary's counties on Sundays during the spring turkey hunting season. In Dorchester County, a person may hunt turkeys on Sundays on *public* land designated for hunting by DNR during the spring turkey hunting season.

Background: DNR advises that Maryland is a major wintering area for migratory waterfowl, especially ducks and Canada geese. For this reason, many nonresident hunters come to Maryland to hunt waterfowl. During the 2017-2018 hunting season, 8,183 nonresident three-day waterfowl and small game hunting licenses were sold.

Nonresident three-day hunting licenses (also known as nonresident three-day waterfowl and small game licenses) enable a purchaser to hunt all legal game during the appropriate season except deer, bear, and turkey. The license fee is \$45. Additional stamps are needed to hunt migratory game birds and wild waterfowl.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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