



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 930 – Resident Canada Geese – Restrictions on Shooting in Charles County

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 930. Canada goose hunting is regulated by the federal government's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There are two types of Canada goose hunting seasons; one for resident geese that nest locally and one for migratory geese that nest in the Ungava Peninsula region of Canada and migrate to Maryland for the winter.

The late resident Canada goose hunting zone is established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on the proportion of the wintering Canada goose population that nests locally versus that nests in Canada. The Canada goose population in the resident zone is comprised of mostly locally produced geese, with few migratory Canada geese in the population. The late resident Canada goose zone in Charles County is west of Route 301. There is no late resident zone in St. Mary's County because the wintering goose population there is primarily migratory geese from Canada.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources from authorizing a person to shoot resident Canada geese in Charles County during the late resident Canada goose season unless the same privileges are extended to persons in St. Mary's County.

Since the late resident Canada goose hunting zone is delineated based on the portion of migratory Canada geese in the wintering population, Senate Bill 930 would result in the closure of the resident Canada goose hunting season in western Charles County or a reduction in the daily bag limit from five birds to one bird per day.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources the opportunity to provide this information regarding Senate Bill 930.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Contact: James W. McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
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