

# SENATE BILL 796

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CF HB 1087

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By: **Senators Carozza and Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to  
4 hunt game birds and mammals on certain Sundays in Wicomico County; authorizing  
5 the Department to allow Sunday hunting on certain public land in Wicomico County;  
6 adding Wicomico County to the list of counties in which the safety zone for archery  
7 hunters extends a certain distance from certain structures; and generally relating to  
8 hunting in Wicomico County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 10–410(a)(1)(i), (4), (5), and (15) and (g)(3)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Natural Resources  
16 Section 10–410(g)(1) and (2)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Natural Resources**

22 10–410.

23 (a) (1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of  
24 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1. Allegany County;

2 2. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Calvert  
3 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

4 3. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Caroline  
5 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

6 4. Cecil County;

7 5. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Charles  
8 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

9 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester  
10 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

11 7. Garrett County;

12 8. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, Queen  
13 Anne's County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

14 9. St. Mary's County;

15 10. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset  
16 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.; [and]

17 11. Washington County; **AND**

18 **12. WICOMICO COUNTY.**

19 (4) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer  
20 firearms season:

21 (i) On each Sunday in:

22 1. Harford County; and

23 2. Worcester County; **AND**

24 (ii) On the first Sunday in Anne Arundel County[]; and

25 (iii) In Wicomico County, on:

26 1. The first Sunday; and

1                            2.     The second Sunday from 30 minutes before sunrise until  
2 10:30 a.m].

3                            (5)   The Department may allow a person to hunt deer during the deer bow  
4 hunting season on:

5                            (i)    The last three Sundays in October and the first two Sundays in  
6 November in:

7                            1.     Harford County; **AND**

8                            2.     [Wicomico County; and

9                            3.]    Worcester County; and

10                          (ii)   The first Sunday in November in Anne Arundel County.

11                          (15) (i)   The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public land  
12 designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

13                            1.     Allegany County;

14                            2.     Cecil County;

15                            3.     Garrett County;

16                            4.     St. Mary's County;

17                            5.     Washington County;

18                            6.     **WICOMICO COUNTY;**

19                            7.     Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey  
20 hunting season;

21                            [7.] 8.     Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in  
22 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive; and

23                            [8.] 9.     Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,  
24 Somerset County, on public land leased to a hunt club from 30 minutes before sunrise until  
25 10:30 a.m.

26                            (ii)   The time restrictions under subparagraph [(i)8] (I)9 of this  
27 paragraph do not apply:

28                            1.     On each Sunday of the deer firearms season; and

1                                   2.     On the last three Sundays in October and the first two  
2 Sundays in November of the deer bow hunting season.

3           (g)   (1)     Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a  
4 person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may  
5 not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the  
6 “safety zone”, of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by  
7 human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without  
8 the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

9                                   (2)     A person, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal, may not shoot or  
10 discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school during school hours  
11 or at a time when a school–approved activity is taking place.

12                                 (3)   (i)     For archery hunters in Allegany County, Calvert County, Carroll  
13 County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery  
14 County, St. Mary’s County, [or] Washington County, **OR WICOMICO COUNTY**, the safety  
15 zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling  
16 house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

17   (ii)    For archery hunters in Anne Arundel County, the safety zone  
18 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house,  
19 residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

20                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2023.