

HOUSE BILL 466

M2

3lr1977
CF SB 824

By: **Delegate Otto**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Worcester County – Natural Resources – Hunting**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in
4 Worcester County to hunt game birds or game mammals on a Sunday, subject to
5 certain time restrictions, during the open season for that game bird or game
6 mammal; authorizing the Department to allow a person in Worcester County to hunt
7 on public land designated for hunting on Sundays, subject to certain time
8 restrictions; altering the safety zone in Worcester County within which archery
9 hunting may not take place except under certain circumstances; and generally
10 relating to hunting in Worcester County.

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

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

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 10–410.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 1. Allegany County;

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

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

8 4. Cecil County;

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

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

13 7. Garrett County;

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

16 9. St. Mary's County;

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

19 11. Washington County; AND

20 **12. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
21 **PARAGRAPH, WORCESTER COUNTY, FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL**
22 **10:30 A.M.**

23 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i) **AND 12** of this
24 paragraph do not apply:

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

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

28 (iii) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i) **2, 3, 5, and 8** of this
29 paragraph do not apply:

- 1 1. On each Sunday during the deer firearms season;
- 2 2. On the last three Sundays in October and the first two
- 3 Sundays in November during the deer bow hunting season; and
- 4 3. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season.

5 (iv) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)6 of this paragraph
6 do not apply:

- 7 1. On each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first
- 8 Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January, inclusive; and
- 9 2. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season.

10 (2) The Department may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the
11 deer hunting seasons from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in
12 January, inclusive, in:

- 13 (i) Carroll County; and
- 14 (ii) Frederick County.

15 (3) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Department
16 may allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from 30
17 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m. in:

- 18 1. Kent County;
- 19 2. Montgomery County; and
- 20 3. Talbot County.

21 (ii) The time restrictions under this paragraph do not apply:

- 22 1. To a participant in a junior deer hunt authorized under
- 23 this subtitle;
- 24 2. On one Sunday designated by the Department during the
- 25 deer firearms season;
- 26 3. In Kent County, on each Sunday during the deer bow
- 27 hunting season and the deer muzzle loader season;
- 28 4. In Montgomery County, on one Sunday designated by the
- 29 Department during the deer bow hunting season; and

1 (8) The Department may allow a person using a State certified raptor to
2 hunt game birds or mammals on each Sunday during the open season for the game birds
3 or mammals.

4 (9) The Department may allow an unarmed person participating in an
5 organized fox chase to chase foxes on Sunday.

6 (10) The Department may allow a person shooting pen-reared game birds
7 or tower-released flighted mallard ducks to hunt on Sunday at a regulated shooting ground
8 in accordance with § 10-906 of this title.

9 (11) The Department may allow a person who is 16 years old or younger to
10 hunt on Sunday if participating in a junior hunt established by the Department in
11 accordance with this subtitle.

12 (12) Except as provided in paragraphs (8) through (10) of this subsection and
13 subject to paragraph (7) of this subsection, a person may not hunt on Sunday in:

14 (i) Baltimore City;

15 (ii) Baltimore County;

16 (iii) Howard County; or

17 (iv) Prince George's County.

18 (13) A person may not hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

19 (14) A person may not hunt on public land within the State park system on
20 Sunday.

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

23 1. Allegany County;

24 2. Cecil County;

25 3. Garrett County;

26 4. St. Mary's County;

27 5. Washington County;

28 6. ~~WORCESTER COUNTY;~~

1 ~~¶6.¶7.~~ Dorchester County, for turkey during the spring turkey
2 hunting season;

3 ~~¶7.¶8.~~ Frederick County, for deer from the first Sunday in
4 October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive; ~~and~~

5 ~~¶8.¶9.~~ Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, Somerset
6 County, on public land leased to a hunt club from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30
7 a.m.; AND

8 9. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
9 PARAGRAPH, WORCESTER COUNTY, FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE UNTIL
10 10:30 A.M.

11 (ii) The time restrictions under subparagraph [(i)8] ~~(i)9~~ (I)8 AND 9
12 of this paragraph do not apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (4) During any open hunting season, a person, other than the owner or
34 occupant, may not hunt or chase willfully any wild bird or mammal within the safety zone
35 without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

1 (5) In Harford County, an archery hunter shall use a tree stand when
2 hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence,
3 church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

4 (6) In Montgomery County or Washington County, an archery hunter shall
5 be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when
6 hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence,
7 church, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.