

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 1324

(Delegate Rosenberg)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Baltimore City - Natural Resources - Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

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This bill decreases the archery hunting “safety zone” in Baltimore City from 150 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, a person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting any wild bird or mammal may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon 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 wild bird or mammal while it is within the safety zone without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

For archery hunters in Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary’s, Washington, Worcester, and Wicomico 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 County 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. For archery hunters in Howard County hunting under the authority of a deer management permit or actively participating in a county-administered hunting program, the safety zone extends for 50 yards (from a dwelling house, residence, church, school, or other building or camp occupied by humans), and, when hunting within 50 to 150 yards of those buildings/camps, archery hunters must be in an elevated position that allows the hunters to shoot in a downward trajectory. An archery hunter in Montgomery and Washington counties must be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when hunting within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, church, school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 879 (Senator Attar) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2026  
caw/sdk Third Reader - March 31, 2026  
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Analysis by: Beatrice F. Amoateng

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510