

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 879

(Senator Attar)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment and Transportation

Baltimore City - Natural Resources - Archery Hunting Safety Zones

This bill decreases the archery hunting “safety zone” in Baltimore City, except in legislative district 43A, 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.**

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.

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.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1324 (Delegate Rosenberg) - Environment and Transportation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2026
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