

SENATE BILL 982

M2

2lr3274

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Kent County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the size of the safety zone for archery hunters in Kent County
4 within which archery hunting may not take place except under certain
5 circumstances; and generally relating to archery hunting in Kent County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Natural Resources
8 Section 10–410(g)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 10–410.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) (i) For archery hunters in Allegany County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery County, St. Mary's County, or Washington County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(ii) **FOR ARCHERY HUNTERS IN KENT COUNTY, THE SAFETY ZONE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION EXTENDS FOR 75 YARDS FROM A DWELLING HOUSE, RESIDENCE, CHURCH, OR ANY OTHER BUILDING OR CAMP OCCUPIED BY HUMAN BEINGS.**

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.