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**By: Delegate Guns**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Fisheries Management - Black Bass**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations regarding  
4 black bass fisheries in certain waters of the State; providing for the effect of certain  
5 regulations; and generally relating to the authorization of regulation of black bass  
6 fisheries.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Natural Resources  
9 Section 4-735  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 4-735.

16 (a) During the open season, a person may not catch by means of rod, or hook and  
17 line, more than [five black bass or] ten chain pickerel in any one day.

18 (b) [(1)] A person may not catch chain pickerel in the tidal waters of the State  
19 during the period from March 15 to April 30. A person may not sell, offer to sell,  
20 purchase, offer to purchase, or possess any chain pickerel during this period caught in  
21 tidal waters of the State.

22 [(2) A person may not sell, offer to sell, purchase, or offer to purchase any  
23 black bass at any time.]

24 (c) A person may not catch [black bass or] chain pickerel in any manner in the  
25 tidal waters of the State except with rod, or hook and line using natural or artificial baits.  
26 A person shall return uninjured immediately to the water any [black bass or] chain  
27 pickerel caught in any net, seine, or other device legally engaged in other fishing.  
28 However, a person may retain no more than one day's legal creel limit of [five black bass  
29 or] ten chain pickerel for his own private use during the open season.

1 (d) Chain pickerel may not be transported into or out of the State during April,  
2 May, and June. [Black bass may not be transported into or out of the State at any time.]  
3 Anglers, however, may possess and transport [black bass and] chain pickerel caught with  
4 rod, or hook and line, in accordance with the provisions of this section. This subsection  
5 does not prevent shipment in interstate commerce of live [black bass or] chain pickerel  
6 for propagating, breeding, or stocking purposes under § 4-11A-19 of this title, nor  
7 prevent any person from catching or engaging in catching [black bass or] chain pickerel  
8 for propagating or restocking the waters of the State under the direction of the  
9 Department under § 4-410 of this title.

10 (E) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPERVISE, REGULATE, AND  
11 CONTROL THE HARVEST OF BLACK BASS IN THE TIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE; AND

12 (F) SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE FISHING FOR BLACK  
13 BASS BY AREA, GEAR, SEASON, SIZE, AND CATCH LIMITS.

14 [(e)] (G) The provisions of this section do not apply to catching, selling,  
15 purchasing, or possessing black sea bass.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the existing regulations  
17 promulgated under § 4-735 of the Natural Resources Article shall remain in effect until  
18 new regulations are promulgated under § 4-735(e) and (f) of the Natural Resources  
19 Article as enacted by this Act are adopted.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 1997.