

HOUSE BILL 524

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HB 745/97 - ENV

1998 Regular Session  
8r1299  
CF 8r1795

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By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1998  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 29, 1998

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County - Crab Harvesting - Prohibition on Use of Bank Traps and**  
3 **Channel Pounds**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting after a certain date the use of bank traps or channel  
5 pounds by persons harvesting crabs in St. Mary's County; and directing the  
6 Department of Natural Resources to conduct a certain study and provide a  
7 certain report with recommendations to the General Assembly by a certain date.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - Natural Resources  
10 Section 4-815  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 4-815.

17 ~~IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, A PERSON MAY NOT HARVEST CRABS WITH A BANK TRAP~~  
18 ~~OR A CHANNEL POUND. IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, A PERSON MAY NOT HARVEST CRABS~~  
19 ~~WITH A BANK TRAP OR A CHANNEL POUND AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2000.~~

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
21 Natural Resources shall conduct a study of the impacts of bank traps and channel  
22 pounds on aquatic animals, including crabs, fish, turtles, birds, and mammals. The

1 Department shall include in its study whether mitigating measures are available to  
2 prevent adverse impacts upon aquatic animals. The study shall also consider the  
3 effectiveness and enforcement of current bank trap regulations. The study shall  
4 continue over a 1-year period and upon completion of this report, and no later than  
5 December 1, 1999, the Department shall report its findings to the House  
6 Environmental Matters Committee and the Senate Economic Affairs Committee. In  
7 its report, the Department shall make recommendations as to whether the  
8 prohibition on the use of bank traps and channel pounds in St. Mary's County should  
9 be repealed by the General Assembly.

10 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
11 effect October 1, 1998.