

HOUSE BILL 708

M2

3lr2483
CF SB 547

By: **Delegates McIntosh, Beidle, Bobo, Carr, Frush, Hogan, Hubbard, Jacobs, Lafferty, McMillan, Niemann, S. Robinson, and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2013

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Nuisance Organisms – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a separate criminal offense for each nuisance organism
4 imported or possessed in violation of certain provisions of law or regulation;
5 authorizing a judge to award a certain monetary reward to a person who
6 provides information leading to a certain conviction, under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to nuisance organisms.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–205.1(a)(8)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Natural Resources
15 Section 4–205.1(i)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article – Natural Resources**

21 4–205.1.

22 (a) (8) “Nuisance organism” means a nonnative aquatic organism that
23 will foreseeably alter and threaten to harm the ecosystem or the abundance and
24 diversity of native or naturalized fish and other organisms.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) **(1)** In addition to any other penalty provided under law, a person who
2 violates a provision of this section **OR A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS**
3 **SECTION** is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not
4 exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both **FOR EACH OFFENSE.**

5 **(2)** **EACH NUISANCE ORGANISM IMPORTED OR POSSESSED IN**
6 **VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION OR A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION**
7 **CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE OFFENSE.**

8 **(3)** **(I)** **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS**
9 **PARAGRAPH, ON ENTERING A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION UNDER THIS**
10 **SECTION, A JUDGE MAY AWARD A PORTION OF ANY FINES COLLECTED UNDER**
11 **THIS SECTION TO A PERSON WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION LEADING TO THE**
12 **CONVICTION.**

13 **(II)** **AN AWARD THAT IS GRANTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH**
14 **MAY NOT EXCEED ONE-HALF OF THE TOTAL FINES COLLECTED UNDER THIS**
15 **SECTION.**

16 **(III)** **AN AWARD UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE MADE**
17 **TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 June 1, 2013.